

Toquaht Nation

FALL 2026 · PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY EDITION

People's Assembly Newsletter

Governing from home, and the people who make this Nation.

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For Toquaht masčim (citizens), at home and away

Cover: low tide at sunset

Welcome home



taayii ḥaẃiɬ wiicackum (Chief Anne Mack).

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čuu, Toquaht Citizens,

I hope you and your families are doing well as we move into the fall season.

It has been a busy year for Toquaht, and I am proud of the work that continues across our Nation. Council and staff have been working hard on many important priorities, from housing and infrastructure to programs and services for our Citizens, protecting our ḥaḥuuɬi, strengthening our government, and planning for the future.

One of the most exciting milestones is seeing our new Toquaht Government Office nearing completion at Secret Beach. This building represents much more than a new office. It is an important step in bringing our government home and once again carrying out the work of our Nation from our own lands. I look forward to the day when we can welcome Citizens into this new space.

I also want to thank everyone who continues to participate in our People's Assemblies and other opportunities to connect with your government. Your questions, ideas and involvement are important. I encourage all Citizens to continue staying informed and taking part whenever you can.

As we head toward the end of another year, there is still much work ahead of us. We continue to build for future generations while remembering the responsibility we have to our lands, our culture and one another.

On behalf of Council, I send my best wishes to all Toquaht Citizens and families. I hope you have a safe and enjoyable fall, and I look forward to seeing many of you in the months ahead.

čuu,

taayii ḥaẃiɬ Anne Mack

Toquaht Nation

hišukma ćawaak

What we do to one of us, we do to all of us.

OPENING · SEPTEMBER 30

Every child matters

On the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we honour the children who never came home from residential schools and the Survivors who did.



Our team in orange on September 30.

SUPPORT, 24 HOURS A DAY

Residential Schools Crisis Line
1-866-925-4419

Hope for Wellness Help Line
1-855-242-3310

CLOSE TO HOME

Christine Brisson, Family Support Worker
familysupport@toquaht.ca

FROM THE ACTING CAO

A message from Trudy Warner

Dear Toquaht Citizens at home and away,

Welcome to fall!

I have been fortunate to support your Nation as Acting Director of Operations since the spring. Your community and government are truly lovely to serve. Toquaht has persevered through change with grace, and your staff continue to work diligently to serve you with programs and services that meet community needs, monitor and act on changes when possible. You may have noticed that administration has been growing. New staff positions have been created to improve service, meet government obligations and help achieve the goals set in your strategic plan. To help you become familiar with staff and their roles, this newsletter begins a staff series starting with Community Services. We hope this helps you know who to go to for help and how to contact them.

Also, as you know, the excitement is building as the staff and your government prepare to move the majority of operations to your stunning new ƛukʷaaʔatḥiic ḥaẇiɬƥaƛu at Secret Beach. Although we do not have a 'firm' move date, at this point I anticipate the move to take place at the end of November. I will be sure we communicate with you should this change. I admire your community, ƛukʷaaʔatḥiic ḥaẇiɬƥaƛu is not only a tasteful structure in a peaceful setting, it is an investment and a testament to the sound decisions your government continues to make. I look forward to hearing wonderful stories of you all enjoying your new space. You deserve this time of joy and pride. Please stay tuned to learn about a celebration to commemorate this achievement.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or want to share concerns or ideas. It's important to me that you feel you have access to me, cao@toquaht.ca

I hope you and your family remain happy and healthy throughout the season.

Warmly,

Trudy

Trudy Warner, Acting CAO



Music is medicine on the main stage. Photo: Robyn Rea

AROUND ḾAʔAQUUʔA

Music is medicine

The annual 2Rivers Remix Movable Feast Music Festival returned to our Toquaht Homelands on September 25 and 26. Friday brought artist conversations, cultural brushings with the Uut Uuštukyuu Medicine Network and a needlework workshop with Toquaht Elder Patricia North.

Saturday opened as we witnessed the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ canoe paddlers come to the beach, then drumming and dancing in front of the stage. Nine acts followed, and young Lawrence Mack Jr played piano for the crowd. The day closed with a community dinner of smoked salmon and baked čumas, served by Macoah volunteers, taayii ḥaẃił Anne Mack and čaamaʔta Kevin Mack.

2	275+	9
DAYS	PEOPLE SATURDAY	ACTS ON STAGE

DOOR PRIZES AT THE ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to Buck Goodman, Malyssa Mack and our grand prize winner, Colleen Mack. Your prizes are on their way.

SAY IT

Ḿaʔaquuʔa ma · a · kuu · a

Macoah, our home village on Toquaht Bay.



COMING TOGETHER · OUR NEW HOME

Watch it rise
ƫuƛ̓ʷaaʔatḥiic ḥaẃiɬƥaƫu

Our new government building is nearly complete.

Construction at the Secret Beach site is very near complete. A few finishing pieces, including the ceiling wood trim, are on back order. Landscaping is under way, and furniture arrives in November. Trudy expects staff to move in by the end of November.

The sign out front will carry two names: ƫuƛ̓ʷaaʔatḥiic ḥaẃiɬƥaƫu and Toquaht Governance.

> *Governing from our ḥaḥuuƫi is about more than where we work. It is about being present on our lands, strengthening our connection to home, and carrying forward our responsibilities as Toquaht people. Our new Government Office represents an important step in bringing our government home.*

taayii ḥaẃiɬ Anne Mack



Watch the build in two minutes. The video will be posted soon on the citizen Facebook page.


MAY 2025


AUGUST 2025


NOVEMBER 2025


JULY 2026



COMING TOGETHER · CADILLAC LAKE

Caring for our wetlands

Crews spent two days in September improving habitat for waaʔit, the Western toad, at Cadillac Lake.

Located on Toquaht Nation Treaty Settlement Lands, Cadillac Lake has become an important wetland habitat for the Western toad, or waaʔit. The lake formed when mining stopped at the site and the pit filled with water. Today it supports a special waaʔit population, with thousands of toadlets making their way from the lakeshore into the surrounding forest each summer.

This September, partners including Toquaht Nation Lands and Resources, Toquaht Nation Assets, the Association of Wetland Stewards for Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds (AWSCBS), Safe Harbour Excavation and Redd Fish Restoration Society coordinated a habitat enhancement project at Cadillac Lake.

The project was supported with funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) and significant in-kind contributions from Hazelwood Construction, who provided all the logs, soil, boulders and gravel.

Throughout August, partners monitored the toadlet migration, built a workplan and gathered materials. Later in September, the Toquaht Nation Assets team prepped the site so machines could deliver and move materials. That same week, crews from each organization spent two days removing invasive blackberry, placing soil and logs to create habitat, and installing a new fence to guide toadlets toward the forest.

WHY WAAʕIT **MATTER**

Waaʕit are an important part of wetland ecosystems and can tell us a lot about the health of our environment. The Western toad is listed as a species of Special Concern under Canada's Species at Risk Act. Because amphibians rely on both water and land and have permeable skin, they can be sensitive to changes in water quality, habitat and climate.

They also play an important role in the food web. Tadpoles occur in large numbers and help cycle nutrients as they feed on algae and detritus. Toadlets are an important food source for predators such as snakes, and adult waaʕit feed on a variety of insects.

> *Waaʕit moves between two worlds, water and land.*

In Nuučaaʔuł teachings, waaʕit is recognized as a being that moves between two worlds, water and land. That ability reflects their adaptability and the connections within wetland ecosystems.

STEWARDSHIP GUIDED BY ʔUUʔAAŁUK

The work at Cadillac Lake is an example of ʔuuʔaaɬuk, the Toquaht Nation guiding principle of caring for one another. By restoring wetland habitat and supporting waaʕit, we are caring for the land and waters and the many beings that depend on them.



Logs and soil arrive for the new habitat.



Walking the new fence line.



Fastening the fence that guides toadlets to the forest.

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY

This project is part of ongoing stewardship at Cadillac Lake. Later this fall, Toquaht citizens will be invited to help plant native grasses and shrubs, learn more about waaʕit and wetland ecology, and take part in hands-on work at the site. Monitoring continues next spring and summer. To get involved, reach out to Toquaht Nation Lands and Resources.

ƛ̓eko ƛ̓eko to everyone who gave their time, knowledge, equipment and energy. Together, we are caring for waaʕit and the health of Toquaht Nation ḥaḥuuɬi.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thousands of toadlets leave the Cadillac Lake shore for the forest every summer.

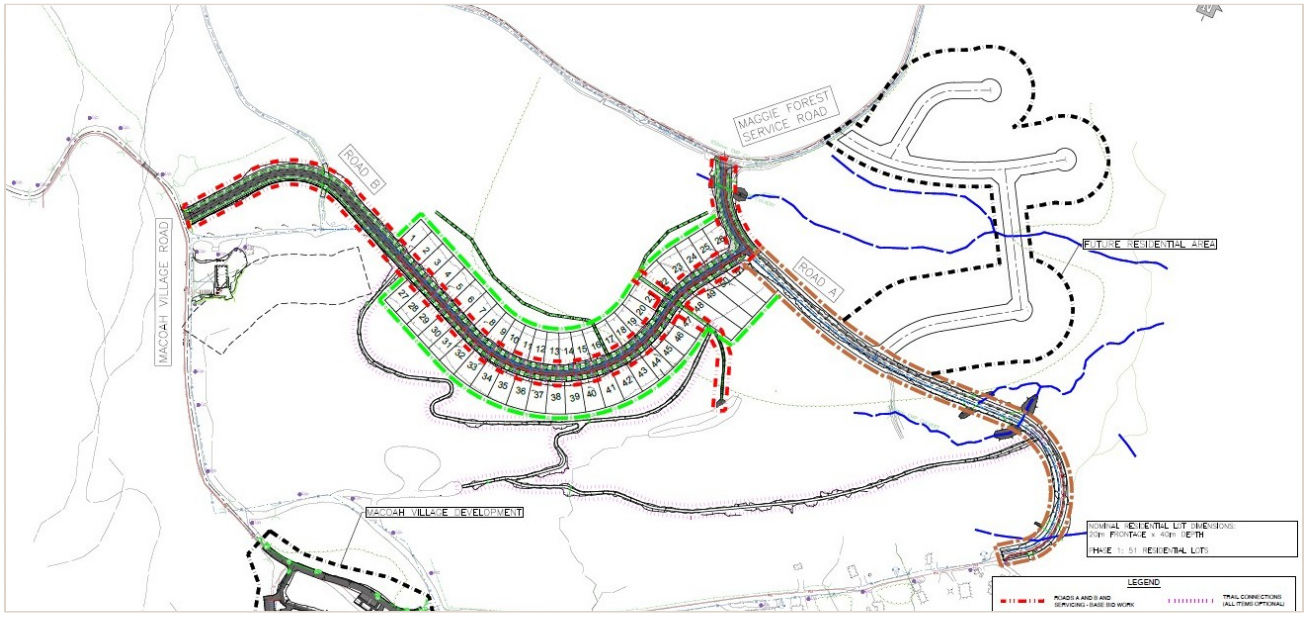
A LITTLE FALL HUMOUR

Why do birds fly south in the fall?

Because it's too far to walk.

New homes above the tsunami zone

Fifty-one lots on high ground, with room for families who want to come home.



Section 38 Subdivision, Phase 1: 51 lots between Macoah Village Road and Road A. Plan: Urban Systems, June 2026

51
RESIDENTIAL LOTS IN PHASE 1

11
HOMES IN OUR FUNDING APPLICATION

2021
COASTAL STUDY THAT RECOMMENDED HIGHER GROUND

Section 38 was planned so families can live above the tsunami zone, as the 2021 coastal vulnerability study recommended. Phase 1 is a full subdivision: 51 lots ready to build on, with paved roads, streetlights, underground services, hydro and drainage.

Hazelwood Construction Services started work in June 2026, and Phase 1 is expected to be complete in summer 2027. Extending Road A to the end of tᵺe ṁaʔaquuʔa road also loops in a new water line, so water keeps moving, for better quality and less maintenance.

The Nation is applying to Build Canada Homes for 11 homes, from one-bedroom units to larger family houses. Phases 2 and 3 come later, once homes stand on the first 51 lots.

Making the case for Toquaht at UBCM

Our leaders spent a few busy days in Vancouver building relationships and speaking up for the Nation.



Toquaht's delegation at UBCM 2026. From left: Elected Member of Council Lisa Morgan, taayii ḥaẇił wiicackum and čaamaṫa yakawaʔaḥ.

This September, taayii ḥaẇił wiicackum (Chief Anne Mack), čaamaṫa yakawaʔaḥ (Second Chief Kevin Mack) and Elected Member of Council Lisa Morgan attended the annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention in Vancouver.

The delegation met with provincial ministers and government officials, connected with industry leaders, and pushed forward Toquaht Nation's priorities on health, forests, roads and telecommunications.

This year's convention also featured a workshop on how modern treaties support the common good, a sign of the growing recognition of modern treaty relationships in B.C.

COMING HOME FOR A VISIT?

Toquaht citizens and invited guests can stay at qiyuus Lodge in Macoah. Email qiyuus@toquaht.ca.

News from the culture department

Updates on family trees, nuučaaʕuł names and protecting our ancestors.

FAMILY TREES

The Nation has bought family tree software and will soon add a mobile printer. Kelly is entering historical information, with more than 90 names in so far. Once family histories are more complete, she'll bring the printer to events and print trees with citizens who want one.

NUUČAAʕUŁ NAMES

We are also gathering nuučaaʕuł names, with their family histories and meanings. Soon there will be a list to choose from when gifting names to your children.

LANGUAGE

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ language classes are open to Toquaht citizens. To join, email culture@toquaht.ca.

PROTECTING OUR ANCESTORS

Toquaht is working with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government to prevent any further disturbance of the shared burial caves and places of cultural significance on our coast. When the work is complete, the two Nations will host a gathering together, and citizens will be invited.

> *Take an interest in our culture, dances, songs, stories and histories, so the knowledge keeps being carried.*
>
> čaamaƛa Kevin Mack, to young citizens at the Assembly

KELLY'S CULTURE QUESTION

What else do you see as a priority for Toquaht culture?

Kelly would like to hear from you.

Answer by November 12 and your name goes into the Have your say draw at the December 5 Assembly.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH KELLY

Email **culture@toquaht.ca** to answer the question, share family names and documents for your tree, or join the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ language classes.

Make sure the office has your current email so you don't miss her updates.

IN EVERY ISSUE · HAAḤUUPACAMIS (THE TEACHINGS) ▸

Our shared values

At the Assembly, citizens asked for a message about respect in every newsletter. It starts with the four teachings in our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. They guide how Toquaht governs, and how we treat one another, in person and online.

hišukma ćawaak ▸ LISTEN

everything is one

What we do to one of us, we do to all of us.

Make it right when you cause harm. Everyone gets it wrong sometimes. What we do next is what counts.

ʔiisaak ▸ LISTEN

respecting

Treat every person with dignity, even when we disagree.

Speak with each other, not about each other. Take an issue to the person or the process.

ʔuuʔaałuk ▸ LISTEN

look after, care for

Look out for each other.

When someone is treated badly, don't look away. Check in with them, then raise it.

ʔaʔapcaʔaałuk ▸ LISTEN

take care that things are done right

Do things the right way, especially when it is hard.

Follow through. If you say you will raise it or fix it, do it.

Tap Listen to hear each word said.

A respectful environment for everyone

That means citizens, staff, leadership, visitors and contractors. In every conversation, each of us can expect to be:

- greeted and spoken to with kindness
- listened to without interruption
- treated fairly, whatever the answer
- safe to raise a concern

When something goes wrong, there is a process to address it. No one will face payback for raising a concern. Contact the CAO at cao@toquaht.ca.

Community Services

This issue features Community Services, our largest department.

A message from Community Services

As we welcome the fall season, the Community Services Department would like to extend warm greetings to all Toquaht Citizens and families.

Our team remains committed to supporting the health, well-being, and connection of our Citizens through programs, services, and initiatives that respond to the needs of our community. We continue to work towards creating opportunities that strengthen families, encourage participation, and support Citizens at every stage of life.

As the seasons change, we encourage everyone to stay connected, look out for one another, and take time to enjoy the beauty of the fall season.

We also encourage Citizens to stay informed about available programs, services, and upcoming activities through Toquaht Nation's website, newsletters, and other communication channels.

On behalf of the Community Services team, we wish everyone a safe, healthy, and enjoyable fall season. We look forward to continuing to support and connect with you in the months ahead.

Lisa Morgan
Director of Community Services, on behalf of the Community Services team

EDUCATION

Back to school, with support

School has just begun, and Hanna is here to support students and families in navigating educational supports.

Don't forget to apply for the annual **School Supplies Allowance** if you haven't already.

$100 per child, K to 12

Joining any recreational activities? Toquaht also offers **Youth Recreation Funding** for youth up to age 26.

Forms, information or questions?
Contact Hanna Compisano, Education Manager
education@toquaht.ca · (250) 641-8814

ONE DEPARTMENT AT A TIME

This issue starts a series. Each newsletter, one department tells its story.

Trudy Warner, Acting CAO

YOUR HEALTH

Your flu shot is free

Every B.C. resident six months and older can get one this fall. A community flu clinic is coming to Macoah, with details to follow on social media. Questions? Contact Noreen at noreenf@toquaht.ca.

New faces at your government



Christine Brisson

Family Support Worker

familysupport@toquaht.ca

Christine supports citizens with mental health and wellness, counselling, addiction and recovery, and finding the right services. She brings more than ten years of walking alongside people through hard times.



Hanna Compisano

Education Manager

education@toquaht.ca

Hanna walks alongside students and families on their education journeys, from early learning to post-secondary goals.



Wren Shaman

Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Analyst

wrens@toquaht.ca

Wren joins Toquaht to support the implementation of the Maa-nulth Treaty. Wren lives in Victoria and is a white settler with family roots in Croatia and England. Outside work, you'll find Wren swimming or planning fun events for friends and community.

A LITTLE FALL HUMOUR

Why do trees hate tests?

They get stumped by the questions.

LEARN WITH US

A quick lesson on moods

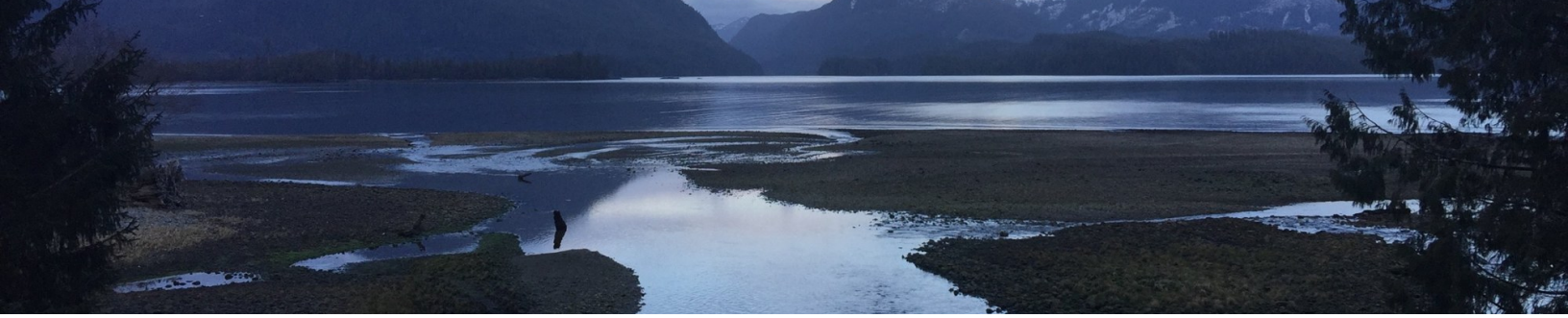
Point your camera at the QR code to hear Trinity explain these two moods.

REAL MOOD

I	-(m)aḥ	susaamaḥ	I am swimming.
you	-(m)eʔic	susaameʔic	You are swimming.
he, she, it	-ma	susaama	He is swimming.
we	-(m)in	susaamin	We are swimming.
you all	-(m)eʔicuu	susaameʔicuu	You all are swimming.
they	-maʔaɬ	susaamaʔaɬ	They are swimming.

QUESTION MOOD

I	-ḥas	susaaḥas	Am I swimming?
you	-ḥak	susaaḥak	Are you swimming?
he, she, it	-ha	susaaḥa	Is he swimming?
we	-ḥin	susaaḥin	Are we swimming?
you all	-ḥasuu	susaaḥasuu	Are you all swimming?
they	-ḥaʔaɬ	susaaḥaʔaɬ	Are they swimming?



CARING FOR EACH OTHER · EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Taking care, together.

WILDLIFE

Be bear aware this fall

Bears are busy fattening up before winter. Earlier this fall, mothers with cubs were seen close to community. Mothers protect their young, so give them lots of space.

- Keep garbage, compost and recycling inside or locked up until pickup day.
- Bring in pet food and take down bird feeders.
- Keep children close and pets on a leash, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Make noise when you walk, so bears know you're there.

If you see a bear, stay calm and never run. Back away slowly.

Danger? Call 911. A bear in garbage, near homes or not moving on? Call the RAPP line at **1-877-952-7277**. General questions? Email Jackie Arsenault at jackiea@toquaht.ca.



A LITTLE FALL HUMOUR

What do you call a bear in the autumn rain?

A drizzly bear.

WINTER-READY CHECKLIST

- Pack a grab-and-go kit: water, food, medicine, flashlight, batteries and copies of important papers.
- Be ready for power outages, with a way to stay warm and charge your phone.
- Put winter tires on before you drive Highway 4.
- Check on Elders and neighbours when the weather turns.

PUTTING UP FOOD

Long before freezers, families got through winter on what they put up in fall. Smoking and drying fish, ʕaplckʷii, kept food good for months. Jarring salmon, drying berries and filling the pantry still helps us through winter today.

A WINTER TEACHING

"When I was younger, an Elder told me that winter is a good reminder to slow down. The days are shorter, life gets a little quieter, and it's a chance to spend time with family, share a meal, catch up, and enjoy being together."

Toquaht Elder Gale Johnsen

Fall at the table

Two fall favourites from Jennifer Maloney of Seasons and Suppers.



Maple roasted vegetables

Maple Roasted Vegetables

Serves 4 · 35 minutes

CANDIED MAPLE PECANS

- 1 tbsp butter
- 5 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 cup pecan halves
- Pinch of salt

VEGETABLES

- 1 bunch carrots (about 5 medium)
- 1 lb Brussels sprouts
- 3 small turnips (or 1 bunch parsnips)
- 4 shallots
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tsp fresh thyme leaves
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh thyme sprig, to garnish

METHOD

For the pecans, melt the butter and maple syrup in a skillet over medium heat. Bring to a boil and cook until thickened, about 5 minutes. Stir in the pecans and cook until sticky, about 3 minutes more. Spread on parchment to cool, then break apart.

Heat the oven to 425°F. Cut the carrots into short halves, halve the sprouts, cut the turnips into thin wedges and quarter the shallots. Toss with the oil, maple syrup, thyme, salt and pepper. Roast in a single layer for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring halfway. Top with the pecans and a sprig of thyme.

Pumpkin Cranberry Scones

Makes 8 · 35 minutes

SCONES

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp each cinnamon, ginger and nutmeg
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup cold butter, cut in 8 pieces
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin purée (not pie filling)
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries, chopped

CRANBERRY BUTTER (OPTIONAL)

- 2 tbsp dried cranberries, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 1/2 cup salted butter, softened
- 3 tbsp icing sugar

METHOD

Heat the oven to 400°F and line a baking sheet with parchment. Whisk the dry ingredients together. In another bowl, whisk the milk, pumpkin and egg. Rub the cold butter into the flour until it's the size of peas, stir in the pumpkin mixture, then the cranberries. Pat into an 8-inch circle on the sheet, cut into 8 wedges and pull them an inch apart. Bake 12 to 15 minutes, until set and golden. Dust with icing sugar.

For the butter, soak the cranberries in the boiling water for 5 minutes. Drain, pat dry and stir into the softened butter with the icing sugar.



Pumpkin cranberry scones

Recipes adapted from Jennifer Maloney, Seasons and Suppers, with permission.

ʔaʔapcaʔaałuk

DOING THINGS RIGHT

The business of your government

These pages report on the Nation's finances, new laws and the decisions made at the September 12 People's Assembly. The formal draft minutes are attached.

THE ROAD FROM BUDGET TO AUDIT

Nov 2024 to Feb 2025
Finance builds the draft budget with each department

April 1, 2025
Annual Budget Act 2025–26 enacted, after the Assembly's recommendation

Through the year
Standing Committee on Finance reviews the numbers each quarter

July 2026
Committee reviews the draft audit; Council approves it July 28

September 12
Presented to you at the People's Assembly

Clean
OUR 2025–26 AUDIT

$91.9M
WHAT WE OWN, MINUS WHAT WE OWE

2
NEW ACTS FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

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The numbers, in plain language

Clean

An independent auditor checked the Nation's books for 2025–26 and found them accurate. This is called a clean, or unqualified, audit opinion.

$91.9M

WHAT WE OWN, MINUS WHAT WE OWE

Up $3.7 million in a year. Most of it is buildings, roads and water systems that serve the community.

$29.0M

CASH IN THE BANK

Of this, $17.2 million is already promised by funders to specific projects.

$12.8M

LOANS

Mostly for the new government building.

Money in, money out

WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

Indigenous Services Canada	$15.0M
Other funders and income	$2.2M
Province of B.C.	$1.3M
Interest on our savings	$1.2M
Toquaht businesses	$0.3M

These add up to more than $13.6 million because $6.4 million arrived for future years and was set aside.

WHERE IT WAS SPENT

Administration	$4.7M
Capital fund	$1.6M
Lands and Resources	$1.3M
Community Services	$1.2M
Assets and Public Works	$1.0M

> *"I'm happy to say we did not have any significant issues... a very smooth audit."*

John Nelson, CPA, CGA, Reid Hurst Nagy Inc.

THE BOTTOM LINE

About $13.6 million counted as income this year, and $10.3 million was spent. That left a surplus of $3.3 million. Our businesses earned $335,491 together, up from a small loss the year before.

WHY CAPITAL LOOKS SMALL

Budgets count construction as spending. Accounting rules count it as a new asset, so it shows up in what we own instead.

Capital budget and new laws

2026/27 capital budget

Where the Nation plans to build and repair this year.

PROJECT	BUDGET
Section 38 Subdivision CONSTRUCTION	$9,136,051
Toquaht Government Building CONSTRUCTION	$2,387,287
Secret Beach Offsite Services CONSTRUCTION	$575,000
taayii ḥaẇiɬ House (Tyee House) CONSTRUCTION	$361,500
Macoah Street Lights CONSTRUCTION	$330,000
Secret Beach Development, Phase 2: On-site Works CONSTRUCTION	$300,000
Site Contamination (TBM) PLANNING	$145,000
Macoah EV Charger Station CONSTRUCTION	$120,000
Capital Projects Development ONGOING	$65,000
Public Works / Marine Stewardship Building CONSTRUCTION	$50,000
Lucky Creek Hydro PLANNING	$7,000
Total	**$13,476,838**

Section 38 and the new government building make up most of this year's capital budget.

New and updated laws

Kirsten Johnsen, Law Clerk, shared these changes at the Assembly.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

After a review of how economic development works, the old Economic Development Act was rescinded. In its place are two separate acts, so roles, responsibilities and oversight are clearer.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACT

The new partner act sets out how Toquaht businesses are developed and overseen, apart from the Nation's economic development work.

GOVERNANCE & FISCAL AGREEMENT REGULATION

Updated to match the new framework, with clearer roles, responsibilities and oversight. The new agreement is approved by the Nation and goes to the Holdings and Operating Boards for signatures.

EVERY VOICE · YOUR ASSEMBLY AT A GLANCE

What we decided

1

Agenda adopted for the September 12 People's Assembly.

2

Minutes approved from the June 27 People's Assembly.

3

Next Assembly set for Saturday, December 5, on Zoom.

THE DRAFT MINUTES

The formal draft minutes of the September 12 People's Assembly are attached at the back of this newsletter, starting on page 21.

Please read them before December 5, when they come up for approval.

JOIN US DECEMBER 5

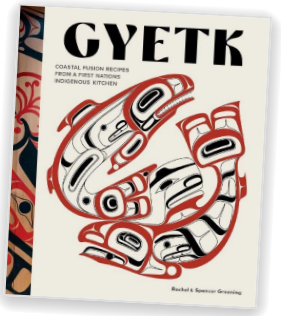
Saturday, December 5, on Zoom

Start time to be confirmed. Watch your email.

Join the meeting on Zoom
Meeting ID: 870 6360 5894

HAVE YOUR SAY

Tell us what you think, and you could win



Answer any of these by **November 12**. Everyone who answers goes into a draw at the December 5 Assembly for a copy of *Gyetk*, the new coastal cookbook by Rachel and Spencer Greening.

ASSEMBLY QUESTION

What would you like to see at a future People's Assembly?

Answers to kirstenj@toquaht.ca

ASSEMBLY QUESTION

What is your favourite part of the People's Assembly?

Answers to kirstenj@toquaht.ca

CULTURE QUESTION

What else do you see as a priority for Toquaht culture?

Answers to culture@toquaht.ca.
More on page 10.

Community corner

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 12	Have your say closes
TBA	Community flu clinic, Macoah. Details to follow on social media.
Dec 5	People's Assembly, on Zoom. Start time to be confirmed.
TBA	Holiday gathering. Details to follow.

MOVED LATELY?

New address, phone or email? Let Naomi Mack know at naomim@toquaht.ca so you never miss news from home.

A LITTLE FALL HUMOUR

How do trees get on the internet?

They log on.

A LITTLE FALL HUMOUR

Why don't fir trees ever get the blues?

They're evergreen.

SAY IT

masčim mas · chim

Citizens of the Nation.

FALL WORD SEARCH

Words run across, down and on the diagonal.

P R E S O U R C E S J S G S I
R B R L U C L U E L E T N B Y
O J M E B A O G U O J O G A O
J J A L B P N M N N I S S R F
E D P A L I Y A M T A Y E K I
C E O N A T C F A U W D C L N
T V R G N A L R N H N I R E A
S E T U D L E M R L T I E Y N
A L A A S P T O Q U A H T E C
S O L G O C M A C O A H B Y E
S P B E K S A L M O N G E W C
E M E T O A D H E R I T A G E
T E R E C O N O M I C B C M D
S N N M S E R V I C E S H I A
K T I G R Y C U L T U R E H R

Our departments (find every word): Operations · Finance · Community Services · Culture, Language & Heritage · Assets · Lands & Resources · Economic Development · Capital Projects

Close to home: Macoah · Secret Beach · Port Alberni · Toquaht · Ucluelet · Barkley · Salmon · Cedar · Canoe · Toad

FALL READING

AGES 5 TO 8

Binky the Space Cat by Ashley Spires

Binky is sure he's a space cat. His house is a space station, and the bugs in it are aliens. A funny graphic novel that's great to read aloud, by an author–illustrator from Delta, B.C.

AGES 8 TO 12

Silverwing by Kenneth Oppel

A young bat named Shade gets separated from his colony on the fall migration and has to find his own way. A fast adventure that's hard to put down. Oppel was born in Port Alberni and grew up in Victoria.

ATTACHMENT

Draft minutes

People’s Assembly, Saturday, September 12, 2026. The formal draft minutes follow on the next eight pages, as prepared, for approval at the December 5 People’s Assembly.

Questions or corrections before then? Contact Kirsten Johnsen, Law Clerk, at kirstenj@toquaht.ca.

Toquaht Nation People's Assembly

Saturday September 12th, 2026
Virtual Video Conference
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Chair:	**taayii ḥawi̓ɬ wiicackum (Chief Anne Mack)**
Virtual attendees:	**čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ (Second Chief Kevin Mack), Kevin Mack , Kirsten Johnsen, Lisa Morgan, Noah Plonka, Trudy Warner, Kelly Johnsen, Robyn Rea, Rick Shafer, John R. Nelson, Sherri Moore-Arbour, Naomi Mack, Colleen Mack, Debora Mack, Malyssa Mack, Brittany Morgan, Sheryl Tate, Michael Miller**

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

Opening Remarks – taayii ḥawi̓ɬ wiicackum (Chief Anne Mack)

- taayii ḥawi̓ɬ wiicackum welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
- čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ (Second Chief Kevin Mack) offered the opening prayer.

Quick recap

taayii ḥawi̓ɬ wiicackum started the meeting by welcoming attendees and highlighting the audit presentation as the biggest agenda item. After a moment of silence in memory of those the community has lost, čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ opened with a prayer. The meeting moved to the featured audit presentation which received applause due to the continuously positive financial situation of the Nation and the hard work and commitment of the Nation's Finance Department. The meeting continued with brief updates on Culture, Language & Heritage Activities, followed by updates on the near-complete Government Building and Section 38, and newly enacted legislation presented by the Law Clerk. Finally, the discussion was opened to general questions and comments during which a citizen made a compassionate call to refrain from lateral violence and treat community members, family members, and Toquaht Nation Government staff with respect. Leadership expressed gratitude for the candid and thoughtful comment and made plans to continue the discussion with actionable steps.

1st Door Prize awarded

1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

September 12th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Naomi Mack SECONDED: Angela Charlie
THAT the September 12th, 2026 agenda be adopted.

Motion Carried

2) ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 27TH, 2026:

September 12th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Debora Mack SECONDED: Kirsten Johnsen
THAT the minutes from June 27th, 2026 People's Assembly be approved.

Motion Carried

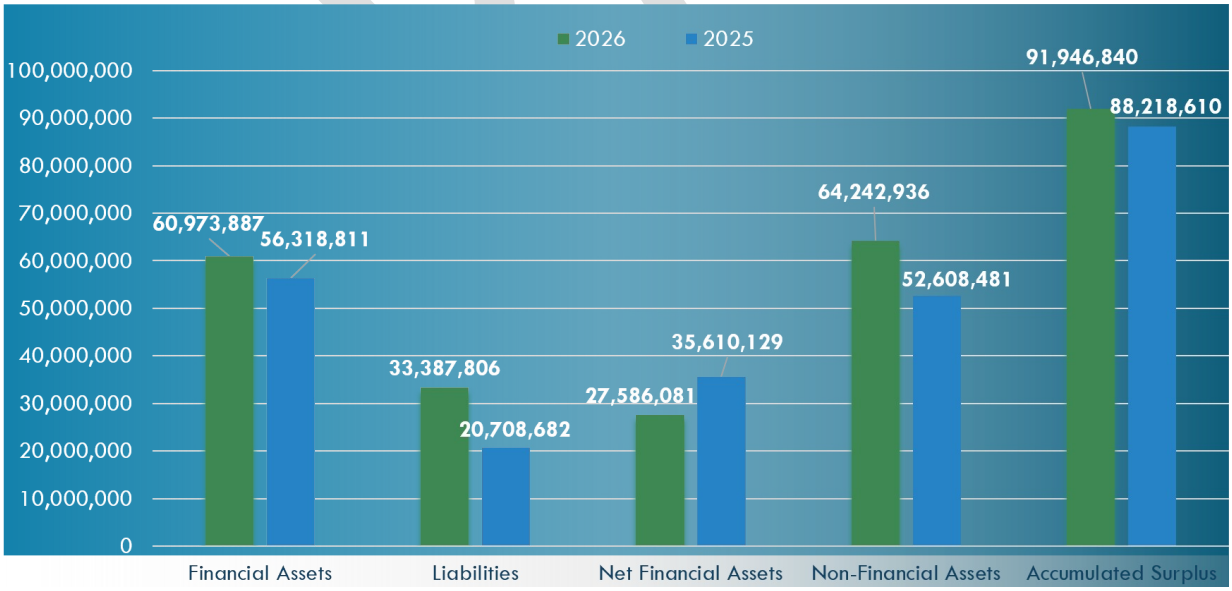
3) TOQUAHT NATION UPDATES

a) Featured Presentation

i) **Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2025-2026** John R. Nelson, *CPA of RHN Inc.*

čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ introduced John R. Nelson and the Financial Audit Presentation by first providing a high-level overview of the timeline from enacting the budget to the audit of the financial statements for that budget cycle

- John R. Nelson started the audit presentation by explaining the audit process and then presenting and explaining the results of the 2025-2026 audit.
- The results were summarized as Toquaht Nation Government being in a good financial position, and maintaining good financial reporting and internal controls, leading to an "unqualified" audit opinion, meaning statements are considered accurate. This is the best possible audit opinion for Toquaht Nation.
- John continued his presentation by going into more detail on the financial statements and highlighting the following numbers:
  - Consolidated Statement of Financial Position *(see a)*
    - **(i)** Toquaht Nation's Net Assets/Accumulated Surplus – i.e. financial and non-financial assets: $91,946,840 (showing a ~$3.7 million increase from the previous year)
    - **(ii)** Loans payable: $12,792,700 (showing a ~$7 million increase from the previous year)
      1. John noted that while the loan amount increased a lot, that money was spent on the construction of the new Government Building which in turn increased the value of Toquaht Nation's infrastructure



a Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

- Consolidated Statement of Operations and Accumulated Surplus

(i) Total Revenue: $13,579,981

1. Transfer to/from deferred revenue -$6,439,329 (this number represents additional money that Toquaht is entitled to receive but was deferred to the next fiscal year)
2. Share of net income (loss) of government businesses *(see b)*: $335,491

Entity	2025	2024
Toquaht Holdings	99,809.00	162,217.00
Toquaht Forestry	(315,213.00)	(95,726.00)
Toquaht Industries	(76,408.00)	(39,020.00)
Toquaht Management	47,005.00	100,994.00
Toquaht Developments	(71,436.00)	(63,507.00)
Toquaht Enterprises	(20,997.00)	28,304.00
Barkley Sound Shellfish	398,934.00	(154,139.00)
Toquaht Marina and Campground	8,470.00	(68,433.00)
Hayu Fishing Limited Partnership	297,529.00	128,085.00
Barkley Community Forest	(32,206.00)	(11,877.00)
Net Income	**335,491.00**	**(13,102.00)**

b Share of Net Income (loss) of Government Businesses

(ii) Total Expenses: $10,328,644

1. John specifically highlights the variance between the Capital Projects "Budget" vs. "Actual" ($14,440,000 vs. $232,901), explaining that the "Budget" number represents the money that is budgeted to be spent, while the "Actual" number for audit/ purposes treats money spent on a constructed asset (e.g. Government Building) as an increase

- John also provided a breakdown of the income/loss of the Toquaht Holdings group of businesses noting that while some of the businesses report losses due to cyclical vs. yearly income (e.g. harvests not occurring yearly in forestry), they overall generated a total net income of $335,491
- John closed the presentation by noting that there were no significant findings that needed to be brought to citizen's attention, and commended the Finance Department and the Toquaht Nation Government for their work and assistance during the audit

Q: Is the Nation doing well regarding Toquaht Forestry and Toquaht Marina and Campground? Was there increase/a steady income from the previous years?

A: Yes, both are doing fine. Toquaht Forestry is only showing expenses during the off-harvest years but has set aside enough funds from the last harvest to last until the next. Toquaht Marina and Campground is currently breaking even. There is no concern that any of the Toquaht Holdings group of businesses will not be able to continue operations beyond one year.

Further questions after the meeting can be directed to John R. Nelson via Toquaht Nation Government.

2nd Door Prize awarded

b) **Culture, Language & Heritage Activities Updates** Kelly Johnsen, *Manager of Culture, Language & Heritage*

Kelly Johnsen provided the update on Culture, Language & Heritage Activities

i) Family Trees Update, including nuučaaʔuł names
- Software was purchased that can eventually generate family trees by cross-referencing information provided by citizens with genealogy websites like ancestry.com and familysearch.com
- Around 95 names entered so far
- In the process of organizing portable printing to provide printed family trees at future gatherings
- Working with cultural advisors to create list of nuučaaʔuł names to support citizens in choosing names

ii) Burial Site Management Plan with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government
- Archaeologists and Toquaht Nation Lands & Resources Department identified ~20 caves containing human ancestral remains
- Caves have been disturbed over the years but funding for mitigation was received (organized through Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government); examples for mitigation:
  - Barring the caves
  - Covering remains with aggregate and beach rock
  - Putting up informational signs asking visitors not to disturb the traditional territory
- Final ceremony with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government TBA
- Additional ancestral remains were recently brought home from the University of Manitoba
  - In the ‘90s these remains were accidentally removed thinking they were remains of faunal creatures; DNA tests showed that they were remains of up to six individuals
  - The remains are currently in a small casket in the Community Building’s Regalia Room
  - A committee of cultural advisors will be created (~ early October) to discuss the appropriate next steps (i.e. laying remains to rest on islands and planning a memorial/ceremony)

iii) The 2Rivers Remix Movable Feast Music Festival, September 26th
- Friday 25th: series of workshops
- Saturday 26th: music festival noon – 10pm
- Working closely with Assets Department to ensure safety
- 4 vendors confirmed so far (food, jewellery, clothes, linocut)

iv) Language & Culture
- Invitation to Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ language classes still ongoing (contact Kelly at culture@toquaht.ca)
- Currently looking into organizing monthly culture nights

Q: Who are the cultural advisors that are assisting with the list of nuučaaʔuł names?

A: So far Tim Sutherland, Cliff Atleo Sr., and Tim Paul. Vince McKay and his family as well as

DRAFT

Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ friends and relatives will be consulted as well.

Q: How many generations back will the family trees go?
A: This will depend on the knowledge, memories, and documentation that citizens can provide which will be entered into the software's database. The software can then connect the information to individual family trees.

Q: Can we combine cultural activities of Toquaht Nation and Ucluelet First Nation, e.g. invite Ucluelet First Nation to our community for cultural activities?
A: Yes, there are already conversations with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ on how to combine cultural activities.

Q: Will there be transportation to cultural events for citizens for live further away?
A: There are ongoing conversations with the Finance Department regarding budgets to support citizens coming home for these types of events.

čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ followed the question period by encouraging young citizens to take an interest in ťukʷaaʔatḥ culture, dances, songs, stories and histories, to ensure the knowledge continues being carried by future generation

taayii ḥawi̓ł wiicackum closed the Culture, Language & Heritage Activities Updates by inviting citizens to join the cultural dance group which will welcome Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ when they arrive in their canoe at the 2Rivers Remix Movable Feast Music Festival, and added that there will be a tent available for brushings by spiritual advisors during the event.

c) Capital Projects Update

Rick Shafer, *Capital Projects*

Rick Shafer provided the Capital Projects Update starting with a brief summary of all active projects *(see c)* and then focusing on the Toquaht Government Building and the Section 38 Subdivision

Project	Project Stage	2026/27 Budget
Lucky Creek Hydro	Planning / Feasibility	$7,000
Capital Projects Development	Ongoing	$65,000
Section 38 Subdivision	Construction	$9,136,051
Toquaht Government Building	Construction	$2,387,287
Public Works / Marine Stewardship Building	Construction	$50,000
Macoah EV Charger Station	Construction	$120,000
Macoah Street Lights	Construction	$330,000
Site Contamination (TBM)	Planning / Feasibility	$145,000
taayii ḥawi̓ł House (Tyee House)	Construction	$361,500
Secret Beach Development, Phase 2: On-site Works	Construction	$300,000
Secret Beach Offsite Services	Construction	$575,000
	Total 2026/27 Capital Projects Budget	**$13,476,838**

c 2026/27 Capital Projects Summary

i) Government Office Construction Update - Completion and Move-In Planning

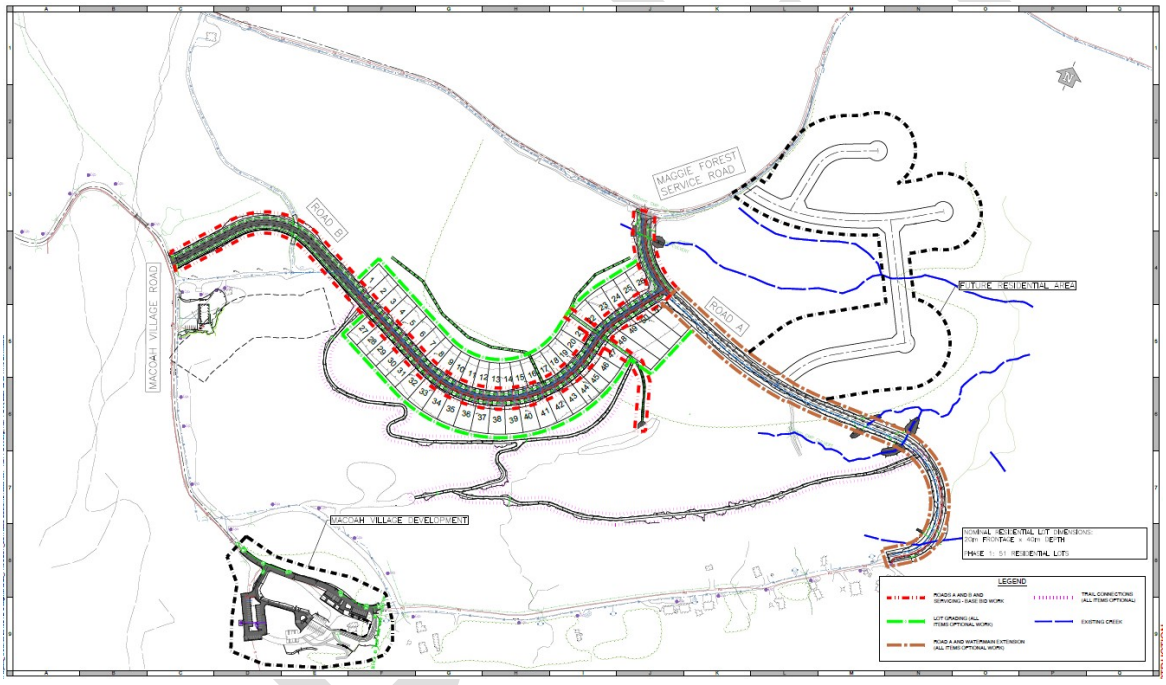
DRAFT

- On track for completion in fall 2026; wood trim on ceilings to be completed, installation of furniture expected in early November, landscaping to begin end of September

After providing the brief update, Rick Shafer introduced a video montage showing the building progress from October 2024 to July 2026

ii) Section 38 Housing – Key Information & Clarification

- Section 38 was developed to provide a subdivision with housing above the tsunami zone, as recommended in the coastal vulnerability study in 2021
- Phase 1 includes 51 residential lots, with roads, underground services, and drainage.
- The extension of Road A (see into the end of the m̓aʔaquuʔa (Macoah) road, will also include a new water line
  - This will create a loop that will greatly increase the water quality and reduce he need for water maintenance, since no stale water will be sitting at a dead-end line anymore
- Toquaht Nation is currently working on a funding application which would enable the build of about 11 units if approved



d Section 38 Subdivision (incl. Road A)

Q: Will Section 38 be fully nation-owned with nation-built homes, or will there be options for private homeowners, i.e. citizens purchasing lots and building their own homes?

A: This still needs to be decided by Council, but the intention was a similar scenario as in m̓aʔaquuʔa where some homes are nation-owned and some are owned by Toquaht Citizens in fee-simple so they can build their own homes on those lots.

Q: Does Phase 1 mean the preparation of the land for infrastructure?

A: Phase 1 is the complete construction of a subdivision with 51 new residential lots that are ready to

build houses on. This includes streetlights, paved roads, underground sewer water, and hydro. Phases 2 and 3 would mean the construction of additional subdivisions once the 51 lots have homes built on them.

Q: How many houses are approved each year?
A: There is no set amount. The current funding application that is being prepared is for 11 individual units made up of different building types (e.g. single-family home, duplex, 6 plex).

taayii ḥawi̓ɬ wiicackum closed the Capital Projects Update by voicing her excitement about the progress made in building ťuḵʷaaʔatḥ's (Toquaht's) community and broached the possibility of establishing a housing authority to manage the homes. This would shift the task away from Toquaht Nation Government and enable input from citizens if they join the board.

4) IMPORTANT NOTICES AND UPDATES

a) New & Amended Laws Update — Kirsten Johnsen, *Law Clerk*

- A review of the Economic Development Framework was started several years ago, involving interviews with many of the involved parties
- As a result, the Economic Development Act was rescinded, and economic development and business development were separated by creating two distinct acts which define clearer roles, responsibilities, and oversight
  - **Economic Development Act**
  - **Business Development Act**
- The connected **Governance and Fiscal Agreement Regulation** was also updated to algin with the new framework, and the new **Governance and Fiscal Agreement** was approved by Toquaht Nation and will receive approval and signatures from the Holdings Board and Operating Boards within the next week (week of September 14th, 2026)

5) COMMUNITY QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION — Trudy Warner, *Acting Director of Operations*

Trudy Warner opened the Question & Discussion Period

čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ provided one more update, reminding citizens that Trudy Warner had been Acting Director of Operations (DoO) since the position became vacant in April 2026, and announced that Toquaht Nation was currently in the process of hiring a new DoO.

Q: There are rental units whose spaces look unmanaged/out of hand. Will this be addressed (re: Bylaw)?
A: The DoO can address this by working with the Assets Department and Citizens if appropriate.

Q: Who is the support person to reach out to for people living in Victoria?
A: For Community Services related matters (e.g. health, education) Citizens can reach out to the Director of Community Services *(lisam@toquaht.ca)* or Citizens can reach out to the DoO *(cao@toquaht.ca)* who can direct them to the appropriate department or staff person.

DRAFT

After the question period, a citizen and staff member of Toquaht Nation Government brought up a topic for discussion relating to lateral violence. They started by commending the various government departments for the good work they are doing and then continued asserting that lateral violence should not be tolerated, specifying that it was not appropriate to lash out at them or any other staff member of Toquaht Nation. They explained that while Toquaht Nation was a family, staff must follow the professional requirements of their role and keep boundaries in place while at work.
Finally, they asked that it be stressed in future newsletters that lateral violence was not tolerated by Toquaht Nation.

Attendants of the assembly expressed their agreement and support, with one citizen highlighting the importance of kindness, politeness, and ʔiisaak (respecting). They further added that emotions may run high when someone is struggling and needing help, but that it was the responsibility of both parties involved to remain calm and respectful so a resolution may be found together.

taayii ḥawiłˀ wiicackum and čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ thanked the citizens for their heartfelt comments and echoed their sentiment. čaamaťa yakawaʔaḥ agreed that many nations and families experience lateral/family violence and that ["we"] all need to strive to be better and work on healing ["our"] issues as a Nation, a Government, and a Family.

Actionable next steps were discussed with taayii ḥawiłˀ wiicackum contemplating how the role of the Communications Coordinator [in the process of hiring] may be able to assist with sharing this message, while Trudy Warner offered to connect offline to continue the discussion.

Grand Prize goes to Colleen Mack

6) **Decision on date of next in-person People's Assembly:**
   a) Proposed: Saturday December 5th, 2026 OR Saturday December 12th, 2026

September 12th, 2026 People's Assembly MOVED: Kirsten Johnsen SECONDED: Sheryl Tate THAT the People choose the date with the most votes [December 5th, 2026] for the next People's Assembly to be held virtually.

taayii ḥawiłˀ wiicackum closed the People's Assembly by thanking everyone for their attendance and giving special recognition to Government Administrators and Council for keeping "us" in line with ťukʷaaʔatḥ's vision, and to the "our" masčim for their input on how to achieve the shared vision.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Lisa Strerath
Law Clerk

Date

Who does what

Have a question? Start here.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?
Trudy Warner, Acting CAO
cao@toquaht.ca

FLU SHOTS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
Noreen Frank, Community Health & Social Development Coordinator
noreenf@toquaht.ca

LAWS, THE ASSEMBLY AND HAVE YOUR SAY
Kirsten Johnsen, Law Clerk
kirstenj@toquaht.ca

LAND, WATER AND STEWARDSHIP
David Johnsen, Director of Lands & Resources
davidj@toquaht.ca

STAYING AT QIYUUS LODGE
Rena Johnson, qiyuus Lodge Lead
qiyuus@toquaht.ca

HEALTH, FAMILY SUPPORT OR EDUCATION
Lisa Morgan, Director of Community Services
lisam@toquaht.ca

CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND FAMILY TREES
Kelly Johnsen, Manager of Culture, Language & Heritage
culture@toquaht.ca

NEW ADDRESS, PHONE OR EMAIL
Naomi Mack, Administrative Assistant
naomim@toquaht.ca

HOUSING, ROADS, WATER SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
Jackie Arsenault, Director of Assets
jackiea@toquaht.ca

Toquaht Nation

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