Modern Treaties and Reconciliation – A New Relationship 150 Years Later

November 14-15, 2017

Uu?atup Yuułu?uł?ath ̣maatmass

Yuutu?it?ath ̣

Overview

- Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ (You-thloo-it-aht) is located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island
- Government operations are located in Hitacu, across the bay from the District of Ucluelet
- Speaks the Barkley dialect of the Nuu-chah-nulth language
- Total number of citizens are 722
  - 242 live in the village of Hitacu,
  - 480 are urban members – mainly residing in Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Victoria and Vancouver

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Challenges

- Small, remote and rural community
- Only 7 fluent speakers remain
- Funding is based on small grants and proposals
- No long-term planning capabilities under the current government funding process
- Current programs are short-lived and unsustainable

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Opportunities

- Modern Treaty Nation – Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement
  - Effective April 1, 2011
- Own Constitution declares, "*Yuułuʔiłʔaṯḥ's identity is from the relationship to the lands and rich heritage, culture, language and stories, myths, and oral traditions*"
- Additionally the values and rights add, "*The right to practice, protect and enhance our culture.*"

Yuułuʔiłʔaṯḥ

Establishment of Culture and Heritage Department

- The Yuułu?ił?ath Government is constitutionally mandated to implement culture and heritage into its governance structure by its membership
- It is this mandate, and identified need, that a separate department has been established, resourced, and planned.
- It takes leadership to implement, knowing that own-source revenues would be invested into the program

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Establishment of Culture and Heritage Department

- Department Manager hired October 2, 2017
  - One of our citizens who has returned home after receiving her under-graduate degree and two years work experience in social work
  - Establishing a workplan
  - Establishing the department structure – office space, classroom and library

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iisaakstał – Working Together With Respect

- Department programming includes consultation and advisory role of the elders
  - They are the keepers of the knowledge
  - Ensure they participate in a meaningful way for the preservation and revitalization of those values and rights.

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taka ċawaakščim – Keeping us Connected Despite Interruptions

- Catalogue all current language data
- Support the Living Dictionary Language Preservation Concept
- Develop graded curriculum for Language Program
- Build a Resource Library of Culture and Heritage
- Develop cultural programming opportunities in Hitacu and Port Alberni
- Prepare for artifact repatriation from BC and Canada

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Našyuksaap maatmaas – Building a Stronger Community

- Annual Budget Allocation to Department
- Develop long-term planning in the Strategic Plan
- Development of Culture and Heritage Library to hold and protect artifacts, language and culture audio and video, and various items significant to Yuułuʔiłʔath.

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Closing

- Hisuk^{w}in ququaaca – Let's all speak our language
- Cuu, Thank you
- Questions?

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