

**Uchucklesaht Tribe
Peoples Assembly
ZOOM
March 25, 2023**

Attendance:

Wilfred Cootes Jr.	Carla Halvorsen	Thomas Rush
Marie Samuel	Scott Coulson	Serra Cootes
Moriah Cootes	Susan Leask	Tina Robinson
Elijah Robinson	Randall Ginger	Ossycha Rush
Helen Robinson	Sabrina Crowley	Regina Frank
Lorraine Cootes	William Jeffrey	Maren Yeager
Brianna Lambert	Tristan O’Daniel	Ryan Cootes
Melissa Rush	Gina Laing	April Martin
Malachi Rosario	Levina Johnson	Martha Titian
Ronalda Robinson	Ethan Gonzales	Hunter Jimmy
Bruce Gonzales	Ellen Gonzales	Samantha Fregin
Jersey Robinson	Steven Robinson	Michael Smith
David McCormick	Michelle Ellison	Ryan Anaka

Prayer/Chant: Thomas Rush and Marie Samuel

Introductions: Moderator/Wilfred Cootes – Presenters and CAO/DOF

Budget: Presenter Scott Coulson

New Funding - New Fiscal Finance Agreement Negotiated and Signed. Federal Financing now at \$5.7 million must be used for administration of services, Governance and Lands & Resources BC Gaming Revenues– 20 year agreement paying all First Nations in BC a portion of BC Gaming Revenues. UTG negotiated agreement at approximately \$480,000 per year for 20years, will be down in 2022 due to Covid 19

Negotiated to have the Treaty Loan paid back that was paid by UTG over the past 8 years Amounts to \$2.1 million. Pay back terms in this years Federal Budget

GAP Closing Funds: Applied for and Received \$2.7 Million in funding for the UTG GAP Closing Project Phase 3

Canada Housing Fund Negotiated by Treaty Nations \$4.0 Million

Child and Family Services Prevention Project Funding of \$491,000 per year going forward.

Administration - SSI Grant Funding for Administration \$179,000

Increase Rent Revenue to anticipate Redford School lease from NTC this year to \$300,000 in second year \$320,000

Increase in Audit Fee cost due to new Economic Development entities and new Gaming Revenue Audit to be done yearly from \$100,000 to \$120,000

Increase in Bank Charges from \$7,000 to \$14,000

Increase in expenditures due to increase in rent paid for Thunderbird Building and added Nucci Building from \$320,000 to \$400,000

Legal increased to \$50,000 due to Specific Claims that is funded through Government Loan

Increases to supplies and telephone for new building due to more locations to supply and service \$60,000 to \$70,000

Decrease for supplies from \$70,000 to \$60,000

Increase in overall Wages from \$679,000 to \$946,000 due to funding for two positions paid by new grant, and Cost of living

Council- Overall Council budget up from \$340,000 to \$450,000 due to contracted services negotiation and policy contractor.

Decrease Legal Expenses to \$50,000 from \$70,000

Honorarium increase of \$10,000 total COLA

Local Travel and Reading to increase by COLA

Decrease in supplies for FTA Council members, computers

Most line items remain the same

Decrease for Inter-Governmental relations to \$5,000

Numerous Departments - Elections- Total Budget \$25,000 for election this year, in case there is a by-election

Peoples Assembly –Meeting Costs remain down due to Covid 19 & Flu use of Zoom for meetings will increase as we move more out of this environment

Increase in Honorarium from \$40 to \$100 per meeting

Door Prizes increased to \$10,000

Citizenship and Enrollment- overall budget remains the same

Education Services - Created new Department for Post Secondary Education in 2021

Cancel NTC Services will hire UTG own F/T Education Coordinator to better track and assist our students savings of \$24,000/year = Wage increase in this department and Post Secondary Department to cover wages

Increased Education budgets for:

Student Books and Supplies \$13,000 to \$26,000

Student Allowances \$20,000 to \$25,000

Student Awards/Grad \$5,000 to \$10,000

Student Scholarships \$3,500

Student Activities to stay at \$20,000

**New Tutoring budget amount to assist with students success
\$25,000**

FNESC DEPARTAMENT

Maintained budget on Christmas Party and Community and Parental Engagement need to see what we do due to Covid 19

Post Secondary Education- Post Secondary Education amount increase from \$125,000 in 2019 to \$250,000 in 2020 to \$300,000 in 2021 and remain the same. To include USA citizens

Adult Training increase from \$20,000 to \$30,000 to Include USA citizens

Career Fair budget \$20,000

Health Services - Cancelled NTC Health services, hired UTG own public health nurse to work with UTG citizens only; savings of \$86,000

Increased Funeral Expense - \$10,000 - \$15,000

Increased Elders monthly allotment from \$500 to \$600. Budget increase from \$225,000 to \$300,000 includes USA citizens

Elders Gathering increased to \$20,000 for more events

Medications and Supplies increase from \$50,000 to \$70,000

Special Needs Increased \$15,000 to \$20,000
Supplies increased from \$15,000 to \$17,500

Treatments increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000

New Line item for Mental Health and Harm Reduction of
\$25,000

Health and Wellness strategy \$40,000

**New "Parents Allowance" \$100,000 for monthly assistance
for those with custody of children**

Child and Family Prevention Project new staff positions which
are fully grant funded through USMA for 2022/2023 and will
continue into the future.

F/T Cultural & Family Support Worker

F/T Cultural Support

F/T Clinical Counsellor

F/T Prevention Team Lead

Care Aide

All positions include 100% wage and benefit, travel, supplies
and materials, programming, and Professional development
funding

Nursing- No Changes

Medications and Supplies \$10,000

Repairs to Nursing Clinic \$10,000

Special Needs \$10,000

Travel Staff (travel to visit members in other cities) \$10,000

Treatments \$10,000

Social Development - Social Assistance Budget increased to \$30,000

New Account for funding for a Homeless Strategy for Uchucklesaht Citizens \$25,000

Family and Child Services

NEW Child Care Subsidy \$50,000 for parents with children who are under kindergarten age

Increased Picnic budget at \$40,000

Increased Travel for Children in Care to \$7,500

Supplies for travel \$45,000 fully grant funded

Prevention Activities for drug and homeless increased from \$30,000 - \$80,000 funded

Increase to swim tickets now for all recreation

Medical Travel- Proposed to increase Medical travel and meal rates to ensure Uchucklesaht Citizens are well compensated for medical travel increased to \$60,000

Additional increase as NTC travel rates are lowering what is paid for mileage – UTG to cover the decrease

Culture & Heritage- Budget for a Canoe & pole Carving
\$100,000

Increase to supplies to assist with additional programming from
\$25,000 - \$35,000

Cultural Activities budget doubled to \$50,000 to increase cultural activities in new building

Finishing a carving centre at Nucci Building

Hiring new F/T Cultural Coordinator & Worker fully grant funded

Created a. new Language Revitalization worker position

Increased contracted services from \$25,000 to \$30,000

Created a new “Cultural Participant Honorarium” \$100,000

Marine & Transportation- Purchased a 14 passenger vessel will keep smaller vessel in village for emergencies

Twice weekly village runs (Monday and Fridays) but are budgeting for daily runs once required for possible school runs

Fuel \$156,000 and Contract Services \$71,500 to support daily village runs once needed

Repairs to Transport increase from \$12,500 to \$15,000

New Department called Salish Sea Initiative later with more vessels funded

Village Operations - Maintaining or Increasing all Budget line Items for Village Operations

Increased propane fuel budget to \$5,000

Insurance increase to \$45,000 to cover increased value of assets and the new homes

Utilities Increase to \$50,000 to cover new homes

Increase in Roads and Bridges to hire a scaler and faller to remove danger trees and rocks on new road to village \$5,000

Small tools increase to \$3,000

Increase to Maintenance of dock for new electrical upgrade to \$10,000

New Account for Information and Technology Maintenance due to increased cost to maintain internet services in village \$5,000

New Internet System for Village \$50,000 working on a Internet HUB from BC

Water Sampling - Continuing with FNHA Water Sampling Protocol

Rentals

Cabin Rentals, Thunderbird House , Six-plex and Mobile Home, Maintenance House Rental Income \$75,000 revenues

Insurance increase from \$15,000 to \$17,500

Repairs and maintenance \$50,000

Thunderbird House to receive capital work for trails Wind and solar power

Communications improvement \$5,500

Contract Wages - \$5,000

General Maintenance on all facilities

Treaty Right Fisheries - Not utilizing commercial Houchuklis Lake Sockeye allotment

Increasing budget for catch costs & processing, to ensure fish distribution to citizens from \$235,000 to \$325,000 (targeting buying fish so as to provide over our allotment)

Budgeting to expand species to be included for fish distribution to include prawns, herring roe, herring meat, mussels, prawns and crab

Included wages and travel costs to deliver more fish to out of town citizens

Aquiculture Operations - Renamed Department from Shellfish to Aquiculture Operations

Entered into a kelp farming project with Cascadia

Accounts to include: Fuel \$1,500, Supplies \$1,000, Contract Services \$4,000, Transportation \$2,000

Otolith Testing- Maintain contract with NTC and DFO for testing , to contract with UTG Citizens

Salish Sea Initiative - New department was to cover the two year fully funded program of purchasing equipment and new positions to work in research, analyzing and protecting our ocean environment, has turned into at least a three funded program.

\$806,904 funded in 2021

\$854,503 funded in 2022

\$900,937 funded in 2023

Equipment to include landing craft, underwater rover, drone, atv trailer, GPS, etc

Funds include fully funded wages and administration and supplies

Community Garden - New Department to for fully grant funded community garden

Grant funding to include Garden coordinator and wages for workers

Funding to include funds for Elders meetings at garden

Supplies, lease, and utilities

New products to be grown in 2022

\$100,000 LFIF Grant to cover capital expenditures, solar panels for greenhouse, small tractor

Economic Development - New Economic Development Manager Hired wages partial funded by Grant funding

Planning for more trails in Parks and Thunderbird House installation of solar and wind power

Bottle plant for Thunderbird Spirit Water opened in 2021 Covid has slowed sales, new social media and marketing plan being developed, negotiations with major hotel chain, major upgrade to include boxed water, and automatic palletizing, fully funded.\$1,250,000 in Grants. Major sales currently being negotiated by three major distributors in Europe and North America

Currently two UTG members employed more to come

The Thunderbird is full and running, motel units up and running

Nucci Building full and paying for itself with revenues

Invested in two Joint Ventures for Cannabis, Sales of products in BC, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. All Province sales coming in 2023/24

Forestry - Amount from Forestry greatly reduced to only complete projects that are small and easily attained

Contractor Fees directly discounted from Revenues

Forestry Manager Fees under Contract Wages

Net Revenues utilized for Economic Development Initiatives

Resource Revenue Sharing- All revenues deposited into Qacca Settlement Trust increase for BC from \$60,000 to \$250,000

Government Revenue Sharing - Revenues: Treaty Loan

Repayment	\$400,000	BC Gaming Revenues	\$500,000
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BC PST Sharing	\$10,000
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Health and Wellness Program increased to \$500,000

Continue to provide Health and Wellness funds to all citizens raised from \$1,000 once per year to \$550 every three months. \$2,200 total per citizen

Land Use Planning- Consulting Fees for the Planning process for the Village GAP Closing project

Geotechnical Consultant, Planner, Civil Engineer - \$60,000 Will complete update to the Official Community Plan and Zoning Act

Mapping GIS - \$10,000

Publishing - \$2,500

Legal \$10,000

Emergency Preparedness: Budget to re-supply the emergency kits in village \$30,000

Full Update to the Emergency Response Plan

Communications Plan for the Emergency Preparedness Plan with infrastructure purchase \$15,000

Training - \$3,000

Legal - \$5,800

New Tsunami Warning System to be installed, Fully funded

Supply the Emergency Tsunami Accommodation Trailer

Resource Management - New Department to ensure Resource Management is protected

Accounts to include:

Consultant	\$12,000
Contracted Services	\$10,000
Fuel	\$3,000
Legal	\$2,500
Meetings	\$1,000
Rentals	\$1,000
Repairs and Maintenance	\$2,000
Small Tools	\$2,500
Supplies	\$5,000

Implementation Activities: Maa'nulth Treaty Society Common Costs including Negotiation of Fiscal Finance Agreements with Federal Government and Province and other common projects (Ground Water Project, Fisheries negotiations, and Legal):
\$780 ,000

Trans Mountain Pipeline, Roberts Terminal, and numerous other negotiations continuing

Received a \$200,000 grant to participate

Negotiated a long term funding (5 years) of \$200,000 per Maa-nulth Nation to fund the Maa-nulth Treaty Society projects.

Resource Revenue Sharing \$300,000

Budget is Balanced.

Question Sabrina Crowley: What is SSI?

Answer: Salish Sea Initiative – east coast of the island. Trans Mountain Pipeline based funding for nations. It could effect Maa nult Domestic Fishing Area since ships have to travel through our areas. It is funding to allow nations to get professional staff and equipment to monitor our landscape with traditional knowledge balanced with science. We would have back ground data to show any impacts to our areas. We bought a landing craft, underwater RMV, multiple types of water sampling gear and three positions – marine stewardship monitoring program. We have invited citizens to take part when we do sampling. We are doing plant bed monitoring by dip lock and geere islets. We are monitoring marine birds as well. We will do some prawn and crab monitoring. We will work with Human Services department to help us with our catch efforts.

Question Gina Laing: When can we go back to in person meetings?

Answer: We hope really soon. Our recommendation from our health department was to ...for this period of time due to covid and the bad flu to limit numbers but we are starting to open up and starting family nights again. We are trying to maintain some safety protocols but we hope next meeting.

Question Ellen Gonzales: Can children in states access tutoring fund? And send out information package?

Answer: Yes, policies for new spending is being developed and then we will have approvals. I am not 100% but I do know that our books and things like that are given to USA students as well so I cannot see why this area wouldn't but I would say most likely. Things such as books, parents allotment.

Question Ellen Gonzales: Can we please send out information to members regarding what services are available to us?
Example swim tickets, tutoring Ellen

Answer: Yes.

Question Sabrina Crowley: Increased Wages...what are the two new positions? Who is it for?

Answer: We have a position for the Grant Writing and I can tell you that has paid for itself many times over and so we hired our full time grant writer Tricia in the last 8-9 months. We utilized funding this year and this is just catching up. The other position is Executive Assistant for council. We also hired Matthew Dube for the other financial position as there are a lot of financial reports that need to get done. We hired him in the last 8 months.

Question RONALDA ROBINSON: Any funding for recreational activities such as swimming and art?

Answer: Yes, you would have to contact the Human Services Department for specific items. We do not fund everything but there are programming funds there and lots of children service funding. I would contact for specific items Christina.

Question Sabrina Crowley: Is there anything in place to restore our resources? Hatchery and Sockeye Restoration Efforts?

Answer: We have grant funding to support this type of work. Aquatic Restoration Fund and using LGL out of Victoria. They did background assessment of what work was done to date – there was a lot of work done. Second Step was sampling within the lake – and what we are seeing is the sockeye run is not where it should be. We get anywhere between 12,000-15,000. You are only getting 15,000 then there would be a major impact. Next Step is industry assessment. Even though there are efforts to limit the impacts to the run by forgoing the commercial fishery. Prior to taking on the enhancement work we must figure out why the stocks are not rebounding. We are first assessing the habitat to figure out the issue. The second year we will identify limiting factors and then assessing enhancement locations where we can do enhancement so that we can then apply for funds for that work. We are looking at sockeye but we have also been looking at chinook enhancement and previous enhancement work was unsuccessful. This year we should see some return, three year olds at this point. We will put in rotary screw trap at

the outfall this spring in April so that we have a better idea of sockeye movement. We are working on it.

Question Gina Laing: Hi Scott- we really miss you.

Answer: Thanks, I miss you all as well.

Question Moriah Cootes: Could we have a position created to control communications?

Answer: Yes, we would like to hire on a UTG communications coordinator. It is hard to find people, we have to time it really well. It is hard to bring more infrastructure in. We do need someone and all departments would benefit. I will take that back to the Executive.

Question Sabrina Crowley/Ellen Gonzales: What is the Executive Assistant, we don't understand?

Answer: We had this filled before at a half time role – person to assist executive and full legislature. Our council is engaged in many meetings – land coalition, maa nulth, etc... they are full time daily at these meetings. I know because I attend most of those meetings as well. The assistant helps chief and council with preparing documents, it is a much needed position due to how busy we are. That role would be only for chief and council.

Family Councillors – our constitution notes the full Legislative and Executive Government and so we do get input from all the Legislature for the acts and their input is part of that. They give us suggestions for other line items and we do include those in the budget. Your family councillor is getting input into services.

Question Sabrina Crowley: Would like to see the Legislative Government funds go towards legislative government as a whole as they seem underutilized.

Answer: They are funded and in the future there may be a need for more Executive Positions and that would come from the legislature. Presently that funding there is for all eight.

Question Sabrina Crowley: Who fills that position? Executive Assistant? Is that just anyone? Position is too vague.

Answer: It is vague and not filled yet. We do need a full time position. All governments have executive assistants and it will be posted for people to apply. It is a secretary that helps executive with materials and planning meetings for all elected officials.

Motion #01: The Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly accepts and received the Annual Budget 2023/2024.

Moved: Melissa Rush

Seconded: Moriah Cootes

(All in Favor - 25)

(Abstain – 1)

Motion Carried

5 Year Economic Development Plan: Presenter David McCormick

An economic development plan is required every five years. This new plan follows on the two previous five-year plans and takes into account the following factors: Post pandemic-related impacts, UTG and business activity is returning to normal, Uchucklesaht's new OCP outlines ambitious economic goals - Demographic change is a challenge but also an opportunity for Uchucklesaht

Economic Development Manager to champion opportunities
Now is the time to engage interests and set out a course of action for the future

Followed Sacred Principles of:

- ✓ Hish-uk ish ts'a-walk (Everything is One)
- ✓ Isaak (Greater Respect)
- ✓ Uu-a-thluk (Taking Care of)

Secondary data sources, statistics, documents and studies were reviewed. UTG's new OCP provided guidance for the Economic Development Plan

Site visits to Ehthlateese and Uchucklesit Inlet by road and water

Interviews • Focus groups • Strategic planning workshops

Investments in Real Estate, Water, Seafood

Positive, Proactive, Relationship-focused

Average age of 29 means economic development must focus on the future

Employment opportunities are available as is education and training

Goals: Village Development, Employment, Revenue Generation, Above Average Education Attainment

Economic Development Manager to lead

Support provided by UTG department staff

Partnerships • Investment Decisions by CAO / Executive Council

Specific Claims: Uchucklesaht Tribe Logging of Former Cowishil IR NO.1 and Former Ethlateese IR NO.2 (1953-1962) Presenter: Michelle Ellison

Specific Claims are legal claims against Canada for failing to follow the *Indian Act* or breaches of fiduciary duty relating to reserve land or other assets.

The process is an alternative to going to court. The goal is usually to negotiate a settlement. However, First Nations can ask the Specific Claims Tribunal to resolve a Claim in some situations.

Specific Claims do not resolve issues related to aboriginal rights and title.

The process provides financial compensation, not land to settle the claims.

The Claim was filed in 2015.

The Claim alleged that Canada breached its fiduciary duty when it allowed Uchucklesaht to enter into logging contracts which were not in the best interest of the Tribe.

The contracts allowed the contractors to reap profits which should have gone to Uchucklesaht and some revenues could not be accounted for in Band Trust records.

In 2018 Canada agreed it breached its fiduciary duty to Uchucklesaht and agreed to negotiate a settlement of the Claim.

During negotiations Uchucklesaht provided expert evidence that Uchucklesaht had lost approximately \$100,000 between 1953 and 1962 due to the unfair contracts with the companies. (the “Lost Revenues”)

Canada must also compensate Uchucklesaht for the opportunity to utilize the Lost Revenues to their best advantage, i.e. interest.

Interest was based on the interest the Lost Revenues would have earned in Uchucklesaht's Band Trust Account when it was a Band under the *Indian Act* plus the interest it would have earned had they been invested along with the financial compensation Uchucklesaht received under the Maa-nulth Treaty.

The total settlement to be paid to Uchucklesaht is \$8.8 million.

This includes: The historic losses of approximately \$100,000; Interest; and negotiation costs.

The key terms of the Settlement Agreement are: Uchucklesaht receives \$8.8 million. Uchucklesaht releases Canada from any further liability with respect to the Claim. Uchucklesaht and its Citizens cannot sue Canada with respect to the claim. The settlement funds will be deposited into a UT bank account and Canada has not provided any advice and will take no responsibility with respect to how those funds are used.

This means that how the funds will be used will be determined as per Uchucklesaht's own laws and policies.

In my opinion: the historic losses have been determined to the best of our abilities; and the maximum amount of interest and negotiation costs have been received.

I have reviewed the Settlement Agreement with Uchucklesaht Executive and recommended they sign it.

The Executive approved the agreement in principle and Chief Cootes will sign the agreement after this meeting. We will send back to Canada to get the ministers signature and then nation should get the funds in about 6 months. It does take some time.

I can take questions if there are any.

No Questions.

Adjourn:

Motion #2: Uchucklesaht Tribe Peoples Assembly agrees to adjourn the meeting of the day.

Moved: Tina Robinson
(All in Favor - 25)

Seconded: Ellen Gonzales

Motion Carried

END OF MEETING