



# NEWSLETTER

Nuchatlaht Tribe

April 2017

[www.nuchatlaht.com](http://www.nuchatlaht.com)

## Nuchatlaht Tribe's Announcement in Vancouver

### Vancouver Island First Nation files historic aboriginal land title case

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, B.C. – January 20, 2017)

While on the steps of the Supreme Court in Vancouver, the Tyee Ha'wilt (Hereditary Head Chief), Walter Michael, of the Nuchatlaht First Nation declared his Nation will be seeking an official recognition of the rights and titles held solely and respectively by Nuchatlaht for thousands of years. The Nuchatlaht First Nation has about 160 members and a small reserve. There are several historic village sites in the area where members and their ancestors gathered food and sheltered throughout the seasons, so getting full land title recognition would better benefit the tribe as a whole.

*"Nuchatlaht has spent many frustrating years of discussions at the treaty table and other processes trying to protect our lands and the health of our people,"* said hereditary chief Walter Michael in a statement.

Located in a once pristine area on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, the Nuchatlaht tribe have continuously and exclusively occupied their territory and maintained their traditional hereditary government. Successive generations of Nuchatlaht Ha'wiih (Chiefs) have refused to surrender their title and the Nuchatlaht people have defended their territory with arms in ancient times.

After decades of futile efforts, the Ha'wilt has sought the assistance of the same legal team that was so successful in the recent landmark Aboriginal Title Supreme Court victory of the Tsilhqot'in Nation in Central B.C.

When the first European explorers arrived in Nuchatlaht territory, they observed and recognized Nuchatlaht ownership and governance and paid tribute to their Ha'wiih. Until the arrival of these early foreign visitors and the interference of modern governments, Nuchatlaht Ha'wiih intensely managed and protected all land and aquatic resources within their exclusive territory.

Tyee Ha'wilt Michael declared "These governments need to hear from the court system to allow us to restore and protect our ancestral lands for the benefit of all future generations."



From left to right: Ron Hamilton, Tyee Ha'wilt Walter Michael, and Jordan Michael



Members of Nuchatlaht Tribe standing with pride on this historic moment.

# 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Successes for Nuchatlaht Tribe

**The 2016-2017 Fiscal Year** is from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The fiscal year is the year which Nuchatlaht Tribe operates for accounting and reporting purposes. While there are always challenges, I believe that it is important to focus on the successes. Therefore, I decided to write a short article about some of the successes that Nuchatlaht Tribe experienced this fiscal year. I hope that you enjoy the following list of successes:

1. The introduction of a revised budgeting practice that ensured that the numbers entered were accurate and that there was Chief and council input in the budget development;
2. The reintroduction of the annual week camp-out at Nuchatlitz that occurred from August 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2016;
3. Nuchatlaht Tribe started the Nuchatlaht Tribe Sportfishing business in the summer of 2017 (more details can be found on our website);
4. The Nuchatlaht Tribe oyster farm was harvested which employed 3 Nuchatlaht Tribe members;
5. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Nuchatlaht Tribe announced its Aboriginal Land title claim court case (more details can be viewed on our website)
6. The Nuchatlaht Tribe website was revamped to look more esthetically pleasing, and be more user-friendly;
7. Herring roe spawned in Nuchatlaht for the first time in 15 years, some of which was harvested by Stanley Harry and Jord Michael, and was distributed to Nuchatlaht members;
8. The Tyee transitioning process began;
9. Two traditional boundary signs (size: 10' by 20') were created by Vince Smith, which will be placed on Nuchatlaht's boundary lines located at the waterfall, and Rugged Point in the 2017-2018 fiscal year;
10. Nuchatlaht Tribe created and adopted the following plans which can be viewed on our website: Communications plan, 5 Year Community Economic Development plan, Comprehensive Community plan, and the Language Revitalization plan.

The above are just some of my favorite successes for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. More successes will be shared in the 2016-2017 annual report which will be developed and distributed to members by summer of 2017. If you would like to have a copy of the annual report mailed to you, please provide your updated contact information to our Community Liaison at [community.liaison@nuchatlat.com](mailto:community.liaison@nuchatlat.com)

By Mason Ducharme

## NTC Family Gathering in Port Alberni

Families all over Nuu-chah-nulth territory gather around in Port Alberni to spend time with loved ones doing family activities together and enjoying themselves. The event, hosted by the Nuu-chah-nulth at the Alberni Athletic Hall, lasted 3 days and went from March 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> while workshops and activities were held for each day. Food was provided and prepared by the generous volunteers for the people who attended, which was coordinated by Audrey Smith.

Nuu-chah-nulth Family Gathering's purpose is to unite family throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territory to learn, heal, share and provide them with a tangible experience of tools, resources and knowledge that the families can bring back to the community.





Nuchatlaht Tribe Newsletters  
*Bringing our members community news*

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We are seeking news and articles from our members. If you feel that you have something suitable to be added to our newspapers, please get in contact with our Community Liaison at [community.liaison@nuchatlaht.com](mailto:community.liaison@nuchatlaht.com)

**Power outage Notice:**

Power in our area will be shut off for about 9 hours while BC Hydro conduct system maintenance. To protect your equipment from damage during the outage, please turn off all lights, electric heaters, major appliances and unplug all electronics.

**Where:** Tahsis to Zeballos  
**When:** Friday, May 5, 2017  
**Time:** 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

<b>Nuchatlaht Tribe Sport Fishing</b>
We have established a new Sport fishing company; where we will offer services like: Sport Fishing, Water Taxi, and potentially, a whale watching service. Contact us or find out more on our website!
P.O Box 40, Zeballos, BC V0P 2A0 250-332-5908

## Community Calendar

- April 12<sup>th</sup> – **Office closed** - Staff appreciation day
- April 14<sup>th</sup> – **Office closed** - Good Friday (STAT)
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – **Office closed** - Easter Monday (STAT)
- April 28<sup>th</sup> – Chief and Council meeting in Campbell River

## Staff Hours

- Ida John – 8:00am - 4:00pm
- Audrey Smith – 8:00am - 3:30pm (w/ 30 min lunch at 12:00)

Rest of staff – Regular business hours (8:30am - 4:30pm)

## Zeballos area clinic/doctor hours

### Doctor Dates

- April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12:00pm - 2:00pm (Dr. Whittaker)
- April 10<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm - 2:00pm (Dr. Whittaker)
- April 25<sup>th</sup> – 12:00pm - 2:00pm (Dr. Amini)

For appointments please call 250-761-4274

Clinic Nurse – Monday - Friday

8:30am - 4:30pm (Closed for Lunch 12:00pm - 1:00pm)

## Contact Information Form

Nuchatlaht Tribe is working hard at trying to get updated contact information for all our members. This will make it easier for us to inform you all on what's going on. So, if you haven't yet, send in your contact information. Please do so as soon as possible.

Go to our website @ <http://www.nuchatlaht.com/contact-form.html> or Email contact information to: [community.liaison@nuchatlaht.com](mailto:community.liaison@nuchatlaht.com)

Nuchatlaht Tribe  
A member of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

*Our Vision: A future where our community is educated, empowered, and self-governing.*