



Ditidaht First Nation Comprehensive Community Plan Project Community Comments

(updated to March 30, 2015)

Responses to Questions on Handout

Looking to the future...

- Community members +3000 strong with tourism guides being taken over by members of DFN
- The greatest achievement will be a great resort which is booked well in advance for such things as hiking the West Coast Trail and during the winter months for storm watching
- At par with general population on:
 - Employment
 - Grid rates
 - Salaries
 - Health
 - Life expectancy
- Greatest success – economic independence
- Upgrade at windsurfer's park
- Comfort camping
- Doobah returned to us
- Ecotourism – world wide advertising in order to have a successful tourism area. Building in those designated areas where surfing is popular. Gift shops, coffee shop, equipment, etc
- More population will of course be new. Hopefully, we will have more members with post secondary education. I know of nothing that is successful business wise given the history of the store and mill.
- A paved, flood-free road
- Comfort camping and windsurf park revenue
- School and library
- Educated DFN members
- Improved system at managing education, government, and housing
- Steps to become part of the community without bringing in workers
- Children are being raised with tradition and culture
- Our language is better than ever.

What should not change in the future?

- The pride of members – knowing their culture and language
- Culture
- Language
- Keeping designated areas a camping grounds, no squatting in other areas.
- Keeping policing over and around our land
- Cultural resources such as cedar bark, cedar trees, seafood resources
- Traditional resources – cedar trees, seafood reefs
- Protection of viewscape of the lake
- Community
- Fishing/crabbing
- Band office/school/daycare/health services

Youth and Elder involvement?

- Youth learning their history and having a youth council to spearhead this process
- Elders giving the history of how and where individuals lived
- Events
- Input into the political process
- Create a youth campground geared toward them being involve and have them create the program.
- What might be offered at the summer camp or winter camp – teaching, cultural
- Drug and alcohol counselling centre – this would involve elders to teach healing, crafts
- Carving cedar bark
- Meetings, youth need to be informed about land ownership and how to care for it
- Incentives, door prizes (I Tunes)
- Food vouchers
- Elders at every meeting
- Elder prayer

Top Priority?

- Getting our homeland back as TSL (park)
- Rebuilding our community infrastructure – gym, sewage systems
- Ec dev.
- A building where drug and alcohol counselling can be offered – leading to healing
- Programs that are more than 6 weeks post treatment
- Sustaining the environment – protecting nature – animals, plants, ocean.
- Right now get a treaty negotiated
- More training such as economic development for members
- Development at Doobah and more economic development in parklands
- Control access to the lake

Sticky Note Comments

- Do Super Host Training for all staff
- Youth come first
- Elders need to be taken care of – first or second
- Health *
- Education *
- Our Culture *
- How are we going to do this?
- Where do we go from here?
- Who is going to listen?
- What can they do?
- Why?
- When will they do it?
- Where is the unity in community?
- Elder's lunches
- Business – we cannot do these on reserve
- Travel by boat?
- Airplane?
- Fisheries license?
- Drivers license
- Separated – adding houses that keep people connected. Shared kitchen accommodations, buses that go to town
- Loans as a band?
- Update website daily
- Nature
- Stories
- Research
- How to provide for self
- Poverty everywhere. Low income housing?
- How can we govern so everyone is OK?
- Family meetings not community meetings
- NEDC/NETP
- Apps for language, First Voices
- Youth committee – planning for future development. They should be traveling/shadowing the Treaty Team
- The people (youth) of today – names will go down in history as being known as the builders. “You did it!”
- Give ownership to our youth – you are needed! We need you!
- Let them know that they are worthy
- Take part in building the future
- Health and wellness
- Education
- Regain culture
- Unhealthy mentally and physically
- Incentives
- Inspiration
- Housing
- Jobs

- Transportation and Roads
- Culture – practice our culture more
- Language classes
- Forestry and fisheries – more community connections, more information and feedback to DFN members
- Environment – cleaner
- Recreation – youth building
- Energy – natural, with our own waterfalls and wind
- Housing – safe house, Elders housing, single person housing
- Hazard lands – all of our land, lakes, ocean
- Housing for Elders, wheelchair accessible
- Remove old abandoned houses and replace them with new houses
- More people involved in community clean up
- More community sporting events – youth and adults
- More fundraisers that bring the community together – rebuild the ball fields
- Fundraisers that involve the community
- Find out who could do what – volunteer
- Recreational Facilities – provincial subsidies
- Bus transportation 2 – 4 times a day. 1 day for Port Alberni, one day to Lake Cowichan
- Economic stability – owning your own land and home, paying taxes to the community to improve infrastructure, which will provide jobs and self worth
- Care home for Elders
- 10% finders fee
- Housing – not enough single units
- Overcrowded
- Not enough maintenance
- History – need to develop curriculum, museum and archives, place for DFN artefacts, teaching from generation to generation
- Need addictions work
- Safe home for children so USMA does not get involved
- Need emergency evacuation or community, street lights, emergency exits, volunteer fire fighters

Comments on the Vision Statement

- Amend the vision – take off the first part, and change the vision part to say that we are heading towards this. We still have a long way to go
- Needs to be stronger around culture
- Say something about songs, dances, and stories
- Need to work more on this
- Make progress a priority
- Make economic stability a priority
- This vision feels imposed
- Focus on economic strength, cultural strength, spiritual strength
- Partnerships between families, everyone should be mentioned
- Connections important
- Should be shorter
- Talk about strengths
- Communication/coordination/cooperation
- Mention youth and elders
- A place for everyone
- Jobs for members
- Add comment on affordable housing
- Not restore – say encourage or support, revitalize
- Focus on wellness
- Maintain culture
- Primary goal: to encourage and revitalize culture, uplift wellness, respect and pride. Support economic stability of DFN people.

Comments on Sections of the CCP

- **Emergency Planning**

- How to help the Elders
- What about people who are not very mobile?
- Some people have hearing aids – will not know there is a problem
- Need to plan for tsunamis, earthquakes, fire, flood, washouts, road closures, power outages, food shortages, no heat
- Also think about emergencies like strokes, heart attacks – when you need help fast
- Start to put together emergency kits
- Have supply of things on hand – epi pens, medications
- Improve the school intercom/alarm system. The system is in place, it just needs to work
- Siren
- Evacuation plan
- There is no plan right now
- Used to be a diesel generator – is missing
- Need to think about heating and supplies
- What is the safety plan?
- Have a plan for your own family
- Check on others
- What about pets?
- Have ladders, escape routes
- Generator
- Community Drill
- Fire safety – not all homes have exits
- Use school vans for evacuation
- Ration storage for emergencies
- Siren for tsunami warning

- **Language**

- People should use technology to learn the language. See the First Voices website
- The language is dying – we need to fix this
- Kids at school are speaking our language
- Not all doom and gloom
- No practical application, but this needs to be done
- Have language time at all meetings
- Need to put dollars to this
- Put pictures and maps around the community
- Add classes
- Pick people to accelerate the language
- Have an essay writing contest with a prize – goes on the website for all to read
- Needs to be self driven
- First Voices website does not have everything, needs to be redone
- Teacher training for language staff
- Elders coming into the schools
- Speak more in the classrooms
- We need more time to work together on this – create opportunities to interact
- School exchange with other Nations

- **Health**

- there are only a few people at home. How do we help everyone else?

- **Community Uses**

- First Aid
- Arts and Crafts area

- **Economic Development**

- Think about members in Seattle, Vancouver
- Have a space to start a business
- Coffee shop
- Café
- Outdoor equipment rental/sales
- Young entrepreneur program at the school
- Add business training to school
- Small business loans
- Look for partnerships
- Focus on small business/whale watching/wildlife tours
- Get jobs for people
- Campsite
- Kite boarding and wind surfing
- Rentals and lessons
- Outdoor tours
- Retreats
- Fishing
- Mill
- Eco tourism trips to Carmanah with guides
- Kayaking trips
- School courses to train children for tourism jobs

General Notes from Meetings

- Need to add a goal/section around inclusiveness
- Need to be results oriented
- Need to focus on education
- Community building should be the top priority
- Housing – how is it determined who gets housing?
- Is there a housing policy?
- Lack of communication
- Roads need to be improved
- Bring back Family Nights/Game Nights
- Sports – used to be popular
- Have pot lucks with speakers
- Communications is always an issue – Facebook does not work for everyone
- Need updated email address list
- Host a fun night in each town
- Think about trades programs and focus education/funding on trades
- Hotel and store – could be a real community asset but needs to be operated properly
- Do not know who is doing what at the Admin Office – add a list of duties/areas to the website
- People need to understand what is going on
- Hard to get young people to meetings
- Young people find it hard to participate in culture
- Need to work toward a better future
- We are losing touch with so many people
- Want to see a language/culture meeting
- Add a recovery centre – this would create jobs
- Lots of apathy – if you could solve this you could solve a lot of problems
- Maybe people just don't know what is happening
- Are we inclusive or exclusive?
- Dilemma – how to get people to meetings
- We need to do something different – clearly, doing the same thing over and over is not working
- Need to get out of the hole we are in
- Lots of feelings of helplessness
- Create something for future generations
- So much negativity
- Need to find a way to trust each other
- Do not want the circumstances that I grew up in repeated for other children
- Hope that we can create a place that is better
- Need a clear staff directory on the website
- Frustration – banging our heads against the wall
- Need to focus on Ec Dev
- Need to start a healing process
- Tough times for starting a business – could use some assistance with this
- Focus on healing, language, and culture
- Improve governance and administration
- There are houses that are empty
- Nurture what is good and positive at DFN
- Need a new housing policy
- Create jobs around windsurfing

- Jobs are the most important issue
- Need more transparency
- Need to have access to Band Policies
- Two term limit for Council members
- End the Treaty process and go to court
- Look at alternative energy – tide turbines
- Genealogy – project is on one of the computers at the office
- Redo the education survey
- Newsletter – call for stories
- How did the idea of “status” ever start? What was the legal decision/government regulation that initiated the idea of “status”?