



Ditidaht  
FIRST NATION

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Ditidaht First Nation

## New Chief Councillor & Council

The Nomination meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May, 2019 resulted in five (5) nominees for the Chief Councillor role and ten (10) for the Councillor roles.

Attendance in voting was not as high as it could have been, but we appreciate those who took the time to vote on Saturday, July 6, 2019. Kleco, kleco.

Welcome to the new Chief and Council to a four-year term, to serve for the greater good of all members. The new elected Chief Councillor is Henry "Brian" Tate. The new Councillors are David Darryl Tate, Anne Pettet, Kelly Sport and Paul M. Sieber.

We thank the outgoing Chief and Council for their time and commitments over the last four years. They have done our membership and community proud.

Initiation of the new Chief and Council will take place over the next several weeks. Please watch out for more information on each of them and their individual councillor portfolios in the next newsletter in the fall. We encourage all membership to reach out to them and welcome them to their new positions.

Newsletter  
July 2019  
Volume 1, Issue 2

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### Inside this issue:

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Ditidaht Pacheedaht Treaty | 2 |
| Community Hall Booking     | 3 |
| Ditidaht Member represents | 3 |
| Recreation Facilities      | 4 |
| Membership                 | 5 |
| Budget                     | 5 |
| Did you know               | 6 |
| Reminders                  | 6 |

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## Congratulations to the NTC Ditidaht Scholarship Winners

On June 15, 2019 the Nuu-chah-Nulth Education Department recognized students in both Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Post-Secondary for their scholastic efforts this past school year.

They awarded several Ditidaht Members for their efforts and our Nation was pleased

to match those scholarships.

Recognition was also given to those who graduated from Secondary and Post-Secondary studies.

Award Recipients are:  
Elementary Draws:  
Derrick John  
Warren Peter Amos  
Quinton Canute  
Sydney Nookemus  
Dakota Knighton

Hailey Thompson (Academic)  
Kate Edgar (Academic & Athletic)  
Breeanna Edgar (Academic)  
Isabelle Fortin (Academic)  
Destiny Peltier (Academic & Athletic)  
Mazzari Tate (Academic)  
Josie Marchand (Academic)  
David Edgar (Academic & Athletic)

**Post-Secondary:**  
Krista-Lynn Joseph – BMO Scholarship  
Hannah Logan – NTC Education Scholarship  
Laura Peltier – McGorman McLean Scholarship  
Rose Gray – NTC Education Scholarship  
Mercediese Dawson – Tommy Jack Memorial

## Ditidaht and Pacheedaht reach treaty Milestone

The Ditidaht Council is pleased to announce that on Friday, June 28, 2019 the Ditidaht / Pacheedaht Agreement in Principle was signed. After many years of work, our nation can now move into Stage 5 of the BC treaty process (final agreement negotiations).

Ditidaht Chief Councilor Robert Joseph, Pacheedaht Chief Councilor Jeff Jones, Premier John Horgan, and MP John Aldag, along with other government dignitaries and members of both Ditidaht and Pacheedaht, met on the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations at the Empress Hotel in Victoria, BC for the official signing.

At its current stage, the treaty proposes \$40 million to Ditidaht that would be paid upon implementation of the Final Agreement, plus economic development funds of \$3 million.

The proposed treaty land entails our nation's existing reserves, plus areas to be transferred from Crown land and the Pacific

Rim National Park Reserve. Once we complete our final agreement, we will own 751 hectares of our current reserve lands, almost 4,000 hectares of crown land and 1,453 hectares of national park land in the south-eastern portion of Vancouver Island.

The province has also pledged to establish a 54 km gravel forest road from Cowichan Lake to the end of Nitinaht Lake to benefit the Ditidaht Community upon approval of the Final Agreement (treaty).

The Ditidaht negotiators foresee our nation becoming more empowered to economically benefit from our lands if a treaty is implemented.

“As we recognize the Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations for their work to reach today's milestone, we remain committed to advancing reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and building a better future for everyone in B.C., today and

every day.” “Our government is proud to work with the Ditidaht and Pacheedaht First Nations toward a renewed government-to-government relationship, based on rights, reconciliation and respect,” said Premier John Horgan, who is also the local MLA.

Thank you to the Ditidaht treaty negotiation team (Jack Thompson, Shelley Chester, Robert Joseph, and Robert Freedman) for their continued work - it has not been an easy journey. Also, hands up to those members of the Ditidaht Treaty Committee, past and present, as without their efforts we would not be where we are today.

For further information, please contact Ditidaht Chief Negotiator, Jack Thompson at 1-888-745-3366 or Shelley Chester, Ditidaht Treaty Coordinator at 1-800-997-3799. More information on the BC treaty process can be found at: <http://www.bctreaty.ca/>



# Community Hall Booking - Procedures

## **Attention Ditidaht Members: Newly Revised Community Hall booking contract**

Please contact Anna Joseph, Receptionist, at the Ditidaht the Administration Office for *all* future booking arrangements:

Phone: 250.745.3333

Email: [reception@ditidaht.ca](mailto:reception@ditidaht.ca)

Thank you for your patience and understanding to this new process. We look forward to assisting everyone in getting the hall booked and ensuring that it is cleaned before and after each use. I will be doing inspections for each booking as well.

Thank you,  
Anna Joseph

## Ditidaht Member David Edgar Represents

David Edgar a 16-year-old, grandson of Barney & Shannon Edgar, son of Laura (Edgar), member of the Ditidaht First Nation, had tried out for Team British Columbia (BC) male squad and was selected to participate in the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships (NAHC) that took place in Whitehorse from May 7-12, 2019.

Edgar has previously tried out, though was not selected. This season, Edgar was encouraged to try out again, and was successful. Edgar believes in that at first you don't succeed, try again, quote.

Edgar played the 2018/2019 season with Victoria based Peninsula Panthers, a Junior B Team that participates in the Vancouver Island Junior Hockey League. Edgar appeared in 35 regular season games in his rookie season with the Panthers, and earned a total of 14 points, including 5 goals in those games. Finishing the season with the Rookie of the Year Award.

Team BC come home from the Yukon with the Bronze Medal, and in speaking with Edgar he said "the week was a lot of fun, we did a lot of cultural events, played some good competitive hockey, and I had the opportunity to meet new friends from across the nation." Edgar also mentioned "I look forward to participating next year, if

I am chosen as it will be my last eligible year to play, and that tournament will take place in Regina, SK."

We wish David the best of luck in his future hockey endeavors and are proud of his accomplishments with Team BC, representing our nation.



## 4 Ditidaht New Visitor Recreation Facilities

Nitinaht Lake is home to new visitor recreation amenities. Nitinaht Lake, a world-renowned destination for kite boarders and windsurfers, will add employment, skill and training opportunities for all Ditidaht First Nation Members.

Ditidaht First Nation with a total budget of \$1.2 million dollars, developed the Caycuse Recreation site project and has been awarded \$237,000 in funding from the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET).

The Caycuse Recreation Site project will feature new facilities, including 52 new campsites and related cultural tourism elements. The project will further include development of 5.1 kilometers of hiking trail access to the Looper Creek Canyon, a unique cave system characterized by limestone karsts and watery narrows that has potential to gain regional and provincial recognition.

The Ditidaht First Nation currently hosts the third entrance to the West Coast Trail and thousands of hikers use the route each year.

Bryan Cofsky, Ditidaht Development Corporation CEO, said plans are to add about 40 campsites this season and 12 to 20 next season. He said windsurfers, kiteboarders and West Coast Trail hiking enthusiasts have historically been the target market with Nitinaht Lake. Though with the addition that Caycuse portion is going to be more family-oriented with trailers and larger units.

The new visitor amenities are designed to draw broader and more family-based markets into the area, supporting the development of new businesses, services and sustainable employment opportunities for rural community members. Doubling the size of the campground will bring in new employment and skill training opportunities for the community as well.

“It’s economic development, it will pull money in and not only just to the person tasked with running (the site) but with our local businesses, motel, store, coffee shop and gas station” said Ditidaht First Nation Chief Robert Joseph. Joseph said the Ditidaht have long-term aspirations for the area, defined in the First Nation’s “Unleashing the Nitinaht” plan, a tourism initiative to transform the Nitinaht into a world-class tourism destination.

The project will enable us to build on our existing expertise in cultural recreation and trail management, and serve as a stepping stone to attract new visitor markets while continuing to build our vision where we are leaders of change, not recipients,” said Joseph.

Joseph further added; the new development will create more employment opportunities for small businesses like food vendors. “There’s a food vendor down at the campground already that can get bigger, the more people the better.” said Joseph.



# Ditidaht Membership

Karen Mack (nee Tate), DFN Executive Assistant, is also the Ditidaht Membership Registrar / IRA (Indian Registration Administrator).

Karen's Role and duties as the Primary IRA are;

- To maintain the Ditidaht Membership List
- Report all events for Ditidaht First Nation people
  - Marriages
  - Divorces
  - Births
  - Deaths
  - Transfers
- Report to the Department of Indian Affairs
- Issue Certificate of Indian Status and the Secure Certificate of Indian Status cards

Please Note:

- New hours for **phoning** in for general questions are: 8:30-4:30, Monday – Friday, exception to Statutory holidays when the Administration office is closed, or, unexpected/sudden office closures and power outages.
- Please contact Karen directly to make an **appointment**.
- Karen encourages membership to apply for the Secure Certificate of Indian Status card, as the term of the card is ten **(10) years**, compared to the original Status cards, which is five **(5) years**. When you apply for the SCIS card, your original identification/birth certificate is returned to you immediately but note that the card does take 2-4 months to arrive by Canada Post. <https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca>
- Certificate of Status card supplies – We receive a limited supply from INAC and the cards are always in demand from Ottawa. Please have patience when we are awaiting new stock.
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Karen appreciates all the memberships patience during her transition in her new role and encourages all members to contact her to touch base.

Karen Mack  
Ditidaht Membership Clerk/IRA  
Phone: 250-745-3333 ext. 225  
Email: [adminassistant@ditidaht.ca](mailto:adminassistant@ditidaht.ca)

## Ditidaht First Nation Budget Meeting

On May 25, 2019, DFN held the annual Budget meeting for all members at the DFN Community Hall. Chief Robert Joseph opened the meeting with a welcome, then turned the meeting over to Jeneen Hunt, Ditidaht Administrator. Jeneen presented the overall budget, followed by the managers from each department who then presented proposed budgets for the coming fiscal year.

If members would like to see the budget that was distributed at this meeting, please contact Jeneen at the Ditidaht Administration Office.

We thank all members for attending the meeting. A big thanks to Dorothy Burn for preparing the lunch.

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## Ditidaht First Nation

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Phone: 250-745-3333



Ditidaht  
FIRST NATION

We're on the Web!  
[www.nitinaht.com](http://www.nitinaht.com)

## Did you Know?

A variety of funding programs are available for Ditidaht Members? Please contact the Community Services managers, Sunny Cooper, at 1-888-454-0022 (local) 250-745-3331) to learn more.

- 1) Skills and Training Incentive: All members can receive up to \$2000 each year. This can be anywhere from university to a first aid course etc.
- 2) Report Card Incentive: If you are a student in Grades 7-12, and are a registered band member, you are eligible for this incentive.

### E-MAIL VS Snail Mail

If you prefer to receive this newsletter via e-mail rather than through Canada Post, please contact Karen Mack at [adminassistant@ditidaht.ca](mailto:adminassistant@ditidaht.ca) and provide your email address.

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## REMINDERS:

### Communication to Members has a process:

All official Communication will be through the website, official Ditidaht First Nation Facebook page, Newsletters, and direct mail outs.

We encourage all OFFICIAL information to be passed to Laura Peltier (Edgar) at [lbedgar@telus.net](mailto:lbedgar@telus.net), to arrange for postings of information.

Thank you

### Address updates:

Please ensure your contact information is always current by contacting and informing Shelley Chester at [dtdots@shaw.ca](mailto:dtdots@shaw.ca) or Karen Mack at [adminassistant@ditidaht.ca](mailto:adminassistant@ditidaht.ca).

Ensuring your address is up to date also ensures all important information can get to you in a timely matter.

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