

Ditidaht First Nation

Newsletter #2 - Update on the Comprehensive Community Plan



Tsukwada Village Site- photo from the BC Archives Visual Records Collection. Photograph AA00880. Victoria

What we know so far...

Thank you for your involvement so far in building the CCP!

We met with you at Malachan at community meetings and one all-day CCP event, and at Duncan, Nanaimo, and Port Alberni at several CCP meetings (two in each community).

Many of you have “friended” us on Facebook, sent in an email, or read through the information contained on the DFN website.

We have your written comments from these meetings and have also collected extensive notes on your ideas.

We have also visited some of you at home- thank you for inviting us in to meet with you. All of this information has been gathered together into one document that is available on the DFN website.

We are using your comments to provide us with direction for different parts of the Plan. We appreciate your thoughts and comments on what you want to see included in the Plan!

This newsletter outlines ***What We Know So Far*** on the Comprehensive Community Plan. This is a work in progress – we will keep checking back with you to make sure we are on the right path and we know the CCP can only be successful with your involvement.

Frequently Asked Questions on the CCP

What is a Comprehensive Community Plan?

A way of moving from ideas to actions...

A Comprehensive Community Plan (CCP) is a document that the community works on together. A CCP is a way of gathering information and discovering community direction. The plan sets out the goals and objectives of the community and then identifies the actions needed to achieve the goals and objectives. A CCP sets out the steps that need to be completed to reach a desired future.

Where are we in the plan process?

We plan to have a finished draft of the CCP ready for the community's review in March 2016.

Over summer 2015, we will continue to collect your thoughts on the priorities for Ditidaht.

In Fall, we will figure out the costs that attach to specific actions (for example, what would it actually cost to improve the roads to Malachan?).

By January, we will be putting the Plan together.

We will continue to hold community meetings, focus groups, events, and will ask if we can visit you in your homes over the next few months.

How can I get a home visit?

Contact Paul Sieber at the Office if you are interested in chatting about the CCP. Paul can be reached at 250.754.3333 or email paulcomm@ditidaht.ca

What are the sections in the CCP?

So far, we are looking at building the CCP in four sections:

The Past – looks at where we have been and the activities and events that have shaped Ditidaht First Nation.

The Present – this section talks about where we are now with statistics, data and reports that help us to clearly establish benchmarks and the means to monitor growth and change.

The Future – sets out where we want to go. This section is developed from community input and the data collected on our lands and resources. It sets out the goals and objectives for the community.

Community Action Plan – this section is all about action. It establishes who is responsible (departments, groups or individuals) and sets out timelines for achievements. A monitoring framework is also included in this

Why Plan?

By planning, we are agreeing as a community on actions we can take to strengthen and sustain the cultural, social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our people, our air, lands, waters and resources.

The purpose of the Comprehensive Community Plan is to provide direction on moving forward as a united people on issues such as current and future land uses, economic development, education, resources, and growth.

The Plan will also be used by adjacent regional districts, nearby municipalities, the province, and the federal government, and private groups to understand and work with Ditidaht First Nation on shared concerns.

What We Know So Far...

The comments below outline what we have heard so far from community members on a variety of topics.

There is space on back page to add any comments or email paulcomm@ditidaht.ca, phone (250) 745-3333, or contact us through the CCP Facebook page.

I agree



I disagree



Not sure/need more information



1. The roads to Malachan must be improved.

There are a range of comments on this, from finding a way to get the roads paved to focusing only on grading/pothole filling. We are working on obtaining costs for the community's review.

2. Unity among community members is critically important. The CCP can assist in building connections and bringing the community together.

3. All members, whether living at home or away, should be able to access programs and benefit from being a Ditidaht member.

4. Education is the highest priority for our members.

There has been a great deal of discussion on education. Generally, members have said that we need to focus our efforts and funding on keeping our youth in school and increasing education for everyone in our community.

A new education survey is being completed as part of this CCP. You can access it on the website, Facebook page, or from the CCP Team.

5. A community bus service is needed to help people travel from Malachan to Port Alberni, Duncan, and Nanaimo (with a regular schedule).

6. New housing is needed at Malachan.

There are different ideas on the form of new housing – it may be built only for Elders or only youth, or it may be a form of housing that encourages members to move home. We are working on different scenarios for housing. Please add your comments on the back page.

7. Employment remains an important focus for Ditidaht.

Members noted that existing businesses must be enhanced and new businesses encouraged among members to create new employment both at Malachan and away.

8. A priority at Malachan should be getting cell reception.

This has been noted by several members as a service that would benefit people living at or visiting Malachan.

<p>9. The West Coast Trail should be expanded and new uses added so it becomes a greater economic initiative for DFN or for members interested in creating new businesses.</p>			
<p>10. Language training is critical and should be offered on a regular basis to members. <i>There are a range of comments on this, with members supporting everything from intensive language classes to online offerings. We are researching options for your review. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve language knowledge in the community?</i></p>			
<p>11. Resource lands (areas that can be used for forestry or gravel extraction, for example) should be identified. <i>Members noted that new economic development activities could focus on these areas.</i></p>			
<p>12. A BMX Bike Park should be built at Malachan for use by members and tourists. <i>This was one of the ideas noted to increase the range of services available to members and tourists. Others included more day use areas, hiking trails (potentially tying to the West Coast trail so people could do shorter hikes along the coast) and nature experiences.</i> <i>Do you have any other suggestions?</i></p>			
<p>13. Culture must be a significant component of this Plan and the community wants to see new ways of expanding cultural knowledge among members.</p>			
<p>14. Access to the lands is important – we need to have a greater presence on our lands. <i>Members mentioned that not everyone knows the lands as well as they could, and that more work needs to be done to get members (especially youth) out on the lands.</i></p>			
<p>15. The Emergency Plan needs to be updated with detailed information on what to do/where to go if there is an emergency. <i>Members noted that getting a generator back at the Hall is important to ensure members are warm and fed in an emergency.</i></p>			
<p>16. Emergency Plans for Ditidaht members are required for all communities with a concentration of community members (Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Duncan). <i>Although local governments have emergency plans, there has been discussion on making sure Ditidaht members know how to contact each other and gain assistance if there is an emergency (earthquake, tsunami). Communications will be critical during an emergency.</i></p>			

Key Community Contact

An idea was raised on creating a new role for a member in Duncan, Nanaimo, and Port Alberni. Each community would have a *Key Community Contact* – a member who could assist in connecting you to the right person in Administration, who could help you if you need access to a government service, and would be a connection to home for members who live away. What do you think about this?

Community Unity

At almost every meeting, members mention the need to increase community unity – to increase support for each other, to celebrate members' successes, and to focus on getting back a sense of community. How would you do this?

Economic Development

There have been a wide range of comments on economic development and areas where Ditidaht should focus their efforts. What do you see as the most important areas, and how would you increase employment and career prospects for members?

Health and Well-being

Members have commented that Ditidaht are generally healthier and living longer than ever before, but work could still be done to support members' health and well-being. Do you have any suggestions on this?



