



**Ditidaht**  
FIRST NATION

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**Ditidaht First Nation**

Newsletter Date  
Volume 1, Issue 4

## We said “YES” to adopt our Land Code

On September 27, 2019, Ditidaht members **voted ‘Yes’** to accept the Ditidaht First Nation Land Code and Individual Agreement.

- 179 members 18+ participated in the voting process
- 147 (82%) said yes
- 30 (17 %) said no
- There were 2 (1%) spoiled ballots.

Voting took place in Port Alberni and Malachan, by mail in ballot and by electronic voting.

Thank you to all those who volunteered and voted in this important milestone for Ditidaht!

### What is the Ditidaht First Nation Land Code?

The Land Code development process started in 2017 when we signed the *Framework Agreement on First Nation Land Management*.

The Land Code is a law that is developed by a

community for managing reserve lands and resources. When a community passes a Land Code, it replaces 33 sections (nearly 1/3!) of the *Indian Act* and removes the federal government from decision-making about how the reserves are managed.

### How was the Land Code developed?

In 2018, a Committee of volunteer Ditidaht members came together to draft the Land Code. They were supported by the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre and a legal expert. Council was also involved in the review of the Land Code. The main role of the Council was to create the ratification policy and procedures. The rest was up to the members!

### How were members engaged through the processes?

Beginning in 2017, Ditidaht members got involved in Land Code process in a of important ways, including:

- 12 community meetings were held in Malachan, Port Alberni, and Nanaimo;
- Members engaged with Land Code online with over 1,500 website visits, and 279 followers on the Land Code Facebook page;
- Over 300 letters from the Committee and information packages with the Land Code were mailed; and
- A team of five Ditidaht members worked to contact members directly on Facebook and over the phone to help members learn about Land Code and get out to vote

### What happens next?

Now that we have a Land Code the first steps will be to hire a Lands Manager and form a Committee. Stay tuned for news about these new roles!

## Governance (Band) MEETING Reminder

**What: Governance Policy / Council Portfolio Updates**

**When: November 2, 2019 starting at 10:00 am**

**Where: Ditidaht Community Hall in Malachan, Nitinaht Lake**

## FNHA Launches NEW Health Benefits Plan

The First Nation Health Authority (FNHA) has launched a new plan for clients that is convenient to use and expands benefit coverage in key areas.

The FNHA has transitioned dental, vision, and medical supplies and equipment (MS&E) benefits off the federal NON-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program. The FNHA's new partner, BC based benefits provider Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) is now administering these benefits.

To access your benefits, you will require:

- Status Number, which is now your PBC benefits membership number
- You can also print your own PBC Member ID card or continue to use your status card

You can find more information about the plan at [www.fnha.ca/benefits](http://www.fnha.ca/benefits)



## Education Reminders



The first report cards of 2019/20 are around the corner.

A friendly reminder that any students in Grade 7 and up, are eligible to submit their report cards for the report card incentive.

Forms can be found on the website:

<https://www.nitinaht.com/first-nation/member-services/>

Please submit completed forms to Peggy at the Community Services office either via e-mail at [phewa@ditidaht.ca](mailto:phewa@ditidaht.ca), or fax to [fax #]. If you have any questions, please call Peggy at 1-888-454-0022 (local 250-745-3331).

## Meeting Notice: Village Plan Update

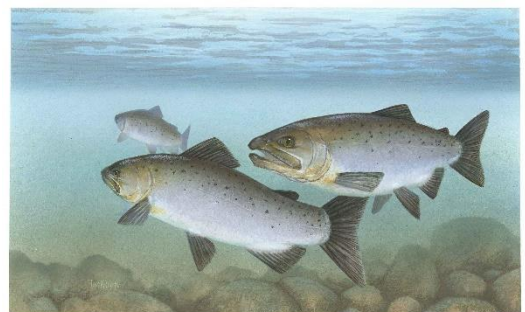
November 29, 2019 ~ 2:00 pm ~ Ditidaht Comm. Hall, Nitinaht Lake

November 30, 2019 ~ 12:00 pm ~ Barclay Hotel, Port Alberni

December 1, 2019 ~ 12:00 pm ~ Bowen Complex Clubhouse, Nanaimo

## Thank you

A big thank you to the Ditidaht First Nation Fisheries Department for coordinating and supplying food fish to the members this past couple of months. The time, and coordination involved does not go unnoticed and the members are thankful for the fish they have in their freezers for this coming winter.



## Windfest 2019

It was a festival as much as it was a competition. After a rainy Friday night, the weather and winds cooperated for both Saturday and Sunday. The races included both recreational kiteboarders as well as the pros in both freestyle and big air. Friday and Saturday night had live music with 5 bands playing well into the early morning.

The 60 campsites on the Windsurf Park side were overflowing as were the new 30 sites Ditidaht just opened on the Caycuse River campsite. An estimated 500 to 600 people attended the event. Bryan Cofsky called it "organized chaos". All in all, a great weekend. Emergency Services were on site although there were little to no incidents. Ditidaht staff did an exceptional job in both fee collection and food services.

Bryan commented that he has seen this event get larger every year and feels in future years we may need to control the numbers by festival ticket presales.

Great job and thank you to all who participated and assisted in this event.



GET IN TOUCH

## Important Contacts

Executive Director: Jeneen Hunt ([executivedirector@ditidaht.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ditidaht.ca))

Executive Assistant: Karen Mack ([adminassistant@ditidaht.ca](mailto:adminassistant@ditidaht.ca))

Chief Treaty Negotiator: G. Jack Thompson ([jthompson@ditidaht.ca](mailto:jthompson@ditidaht.ca))

Housing Manager: Chris Barker ([chris\\_barker\\_87@hotmail.com](mailto:chris_barker_87@hotmail.com))

NRO Manager: Paul Sieber ([psieber@ditidaht.ca](mailto:psieber@ditidaht.ca))

Fisheries Manager: Darryl Tate ([dtate@ditidaht.ca](mailto:dtate@ditidaht.ca))

Ditidaht Community School Principal: Emily MacLennan ([maclennane@ditidahtschool.ca](mailto:maclennane@ditidahtschool.ca))

Community Services Manager: Sydney Mattoo at 1-888-454-0022 (local 250-745-3331)

Asaabus Daycare Manager: Crystal Amos ([ditidahtdc@hotmail.ca](mailto:ditidahtdc@hotmail.ca))

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## Ditidaht First Nation

PO Box. 340  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 7M8  
Phone: 250-745-3333



Ditidaht  
FIRST NATION

We are on the  
Web!

## Did you Know?

### Membership Changes

Has your surname changed due to marriage or divorce? If so, you are required to update ISC (Indian Affairs, Canada). This cannot be done by the Ditidaht membership clerk/IRA.

Until you submit the appropriate paperwork, you will continue to be listed on the Membership list under your maiden or married name.

For more information, please contact Indigenous Services Canada at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada.html>

Or by calling 1-800-567-9604.

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## REMINDERS:

### Address updates:

Please ensure all your contact information is up to date by sending it to Karen Mack, Ditidaht Membership Clerk/IRA at 1-888-745-3366, ext. 225 or by e-mail to [adminassistant@ditidaht.ca](mailto:adminassistant@ditidaht.ca), and to Shelley Chester, Ditidaht Treaty Coordinator at 250-755-7824 or by e-mail to [dtdots@shaw.ca](mailto:dtdots@shaw.ca).

Keeping your contact information current also ensures important information is delivered in a timely manner.

