

For Immediate Release  
Thursday July 28, 2022

## District of Ucluelet Unveils NEW bilingual Nuuchahnulth (Nuučaan̓nuł)/ English Street Signs

**Ucluelet, B.C** — On Friday July 29, 2022 at 10:00 AM on the traditional territory of the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ, the District of Ucluelet Mayor and Council are unveiling the District's new bilingual Nuuchahnulth (Nuučaan̓nuł) / English street signs.

Ucluelet is pleased to take this small step on the path to reconciliation by updating public signage to include the West Barkley dialect of Nuuchahnulth - an opportunity to celebrate and preserve the language.

Within the District of Ucluelet are neighbouring and interwoven communities located on the traditional territory (ḥaahuułi) of the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ (Ucluelet First Nation). The District's long-standing relationship with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ is built upon mutual respect and many individual, personal ties.

"The District of Ucluelet is grateful to have had the opportunity to work closely with Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ language keepers and we want to thank them for their contributions to making this project possible- Jeneva Touchie, Bob Mundy, Adam Werle, and the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government." Says Ucluelet's Mayor, Mayco Noël. Noël goes on to say "Our bilingual street sign project is a small way we can honour the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ people and their traditional language. ʔeekoo, Čuu."

This project brings to life the Municipality's vision of honouring and strengthening their relationship with the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ people and neighbouring Indigenous communities. The District's bilingual signage project aims to signify the importance of the Nuuchahnulth language of the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ and its connection to Ucluelet.

"Not all Nuuchahnulth (Nuu-chah-nulth) words translate to English words. Only nouns that are familiar to who we are and where we live can be translated. It is really great to see our language live within Ucluelet, our traditional territory. It feels like home. It has been an honour to work with one of our Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ elders and language keepers, Bob Mundy, who is a fluent Nuuchahnulth (Nuu-chah-nulth) speaker." Says Jeneva Touchie.

Roughly half of the existing street names in Ucluelet are nouns and are planned to be updated with the new bilingual signage. This project will help ensure the signs are available in the language these words have been spoken in for millennia, allowing local residents, school children, Indigenous community members, and visitors to the town the opportunity to tangibly interact with and celebrate the first language of Ucluelet.

The bilingual street sign project began in late 2019, and by the end of 2022 all street names that are translatable to the Nuuchahnulth (Nuu-chah-nulth) language will be installed in the District of Ucluelet.

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**About The Nuu-Chah-Nulth Peoples**

The Nuu-chah-nulth people (Nuučaañuŋaʔath̓, formerly called Nootka) live at the west coast of Vancouver Island from the Kyuquot Sound in the North down to the Barkley Sound. The overall population is approximately 8'000 people, organized in the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council. The Nuu-chah-ulth Tribes consist of 14 Bands. Their language is highly endangered and on the verge of extinction. The language is spoken by approximately 140 persons. Nuučaañuŋa means "all along the mountains".

**Yuuŋaʔiŋaʔath̓ Government**

The Yuuŋaʔiŋaʔath̓ Government is a member of the Maa-nulth Treaty Society and through the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement, is a modern treaty nation operating with a government to government relationship with Canada and the province of British Columbia. Also a member of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, the Yuuŋaʔiŋaʔath̓ Government continues to promote education and community programs that enhance Yuuŋaʔiŋaʔath̓ and Nuu-chah-nulth identity.

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