

'Namgis First Nation
49 Atli Street, PO BOX 210
Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0
info@namgis.bc.ca
888-962-6447

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For More Information Contact:

Karla Duarte
Economic Development Officer
Tides of Change
250-974-5728
edo@alertbay.ca

'NAMGIS FIRST NATION TO REVITALIZE HISTORIC BUILDING

Cormorant Island Historic Nurses' Residence one of the few remaining 1925 upcoast buildings

Alert Bay, BC (November 22, 2017) – 'Namgis First Nation (NFN) is moving forward with revitalization plans for a historic former nurses' residence on the Cormorant Island waterfront near the culturally important 'Namgis burial grounds.

Several steps are underway that include:

- Contracted Steelhead Enterprises Ltd. to replace the roof to ensure that no further deterioration will take place
- Awaiting funding from INAC for remediation work to clear some minor asbestos in the basement of the building
- Awarded a contract to JWT Architecture and Planning for preliminary concept drawings

'Namgis First Nation (NFN) is a partner with the Village of Alert Bay in "[Tides of Change](#)" (ToC), one of the first joint First Nation-Municipal economic development strategies in Canada. ToC is based on broad joint-community engagement and participation. It identified five areas for priority development, two of which are Downtown Revitalization and Tourism. These areas have capacity gaps in commercial, retail space, and tourism attractions to supplement the current offerings, most notably the renowned U'mista Cultural Centre.

NFN owns a historic former hospital and nurses' residence on the Cormorant Island waterfront near the culturally important 'Namgis burial grounds.

Based on location, structure and history, the nurses' residence is an ideal facility to help address both gap areas. It has the potential to be a historic tourism attraction that uniquely embodies both First Nation and settler history, and to offer space for businesses, food services, and/or accommodation.

A design charrette will take place in early January with the preliminary designs completed in early February.



Cormorant Island Economic Development Strategy

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YOU ARE INVITED TO A DESIGN CHARRETTE!

Cormorant Island Historic Nurses' Residence

Background

['Namgis First Nation](#) (NFN) is a partner with the [Village of Alert Bay](#) in “[Tides of Change](#)” (ToC), one of the first joint First Nation-Municipal economic development strategies in Canada. ToC is based on broad joint-community engagement and participation. It identified five areas for priority development, two of which are Downtown Revitalization and Tourism. These areas have capacity gaps in commercial, retail space, and tourism attractions to supplement the current offerings, most notably the renowned [U'mista Cultural Centre](#).

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The building is one of the few remaining upcoast structures from 1925. A new roof was recently installed in order to protect the structure. Furthermore, 'Namgis is awaiting funding from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in order to remove the remaining asbestos in the basement. Architectural designs will be rendered shortly in order to move along with the project, guided by the following design principles and considerations.

Design Principles and Considerations:

1. Design will consider the input from several people in the community through a design charrette process.
2. Design elements must consider financial implications in terms of building materials, climate, and heritage integrity.
3. Design elements must consider financial implications in terms of tenant occupancy and their commitment.
4. Building design should consider multi functional facility components, based on feedback from the community.
5. Future uses of the building should be considered, as it may evolve through time.
6. Private and public uses should be considered and how they interrelate in case of multiple functions.
7. Heritage elements should be valued. This includes the historic structure, the gravesites, and the history of the place that includes both Indigenous and Settler history.

Current Ideas:

1. Space for VanCity



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2. Accommodation
3. Offices for staff
4. Offices for retail
5. Space for artists
6. Community spaces (kitchen, meeting room)
7. Addition of a deck
8. Adding windows
9. Blending the landscape with the boardwalk