



LYACKSON
First Nation

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026

Message from Huy'wu'qw and Council
Education Ceremony
Lyackson Days
AGM and Council Inauguration Ceremony



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MESSAGE FROM HUY'WU'QW AND COUNCIL

Uy' skweyul, Leey'qsun Mustimuhw,

As we move through the summer season, Huy'wu'qw and Council are filled with gratitude for the many opportunities we have had to come together as a community. The months of June and July have been marked by celebration, learning, governance, and community connection. From honouring our students and lifelong learners at the Education Ceremony, to gathering with family and friends during Lyackson Days, to reflecting on our Nation's progress at the Annual General Meeting and welcoming our elected Council through our Inauguration Ceremony, each event reminded us of the strength of our people and the resilience of our Nation.





EDUCATION CEREMONY

The Education Ceremony was a powerful reminder that every achievement matters. We celebrated students of all ages who have committed themselves to learning and growth. Whether completing elementary school, high school, post-secondary studies, trades training, language learning, or professional development, each person's accomplishments reflect their hard work, the support of their families, and the collective investment our Nation makes in future generations. We are proud of each learner and encourage our youth to continue pursuing their dreams while carrying forward the teachings of our ancestors. We are especially proud to acknowledge University Graduate Diana James and Robina Thomas, PhD, who has recently retired from her role as President of the University of Victoria.



Additional event photos are available at:
lyackson.bc.ca/education-ceremony





LYACKSON DAYS

Lyackson Days once again provided an opportunity to reconnect with one another, our lands, and our resources, share laughter, strengthen family bonds, and celebrate what it means to be Leey'qsun. These gatherings are important because they remind us that our Nation is more than a government or organization. We are a community connected through kinship, shared history, and our responsibilities to one another. Seeing our members come together on our lands, participating in cultural activities, sharing meals, and enjoying time with family reinforces the importance of maintaining strong relationships as we continue building a healthy and vibrant future for our Nation.



We raise our hands to Jenny Sylvester for leading a powerful medicinal plant walk; to our guest Pat Thomas for sharing her cedar-weaving teachings; and to Elder Danny Norris, Tracey Norris, and their grandson Lance Norris, who gifted Lyackson a new community song. This was a deeply emotional moment for our community, and we honour their generosity. To support learning the song, we gifted drums to community members during the event. If you were unable to attend and would like to receive a drum, please contact the office.

We also acknowledge Gwen Thomas and Barb Jimmy for preparing the wonderful meals that nourished everyone throughout the day. And a big Huy ch q'a to our staff for their hard work in making Lyackson Days such a meaningful and joyful gathering.

Additional event photos are available at:
lyackson.bc.ca/lyackson-days-2026





AGM AND COUNCIL INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Our Annual General Meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the work accomplished over the past year and discuss the opportunities and challenges ahead. We appreciate everyone who participated, asked questions, shared feedback, and contributed to important discussions about governance, programs, services, our village site, economic development, and our collective priorities. Meaningful engagement from our members helps ensure that decisions are informed by community voices and grounded in the values and aspirations of Leey'qsun Mustimuhw.

The Council Inauguration Ceremony marked an important transition and a renewed commitment to serving our Nation with integrity, transparency, and accountability. We were honoured to witness the swearing-in of our newly elected leadership and to celebrate this moment alongside community members, families, Elders, and honoured guests. Serving the people of Lyackson is both a privilege and a responsibility. Huy'wu'qw and Council remain committed to working together in a good way, making decisions that reflect our values, and ensuring that future generations inherit a strong, healthy, and self-determining Nation.



Additional event photos are available at:
lyackson.bc.ca/agm-and-council-inauguration-ceremony





Throughout all of these events, we were reminded of a fundamental teaching: we are strongest when we work together. Like strands in a cedar rope, each person contributes to the strength and resilience of the whole. Our ancestors navigated challenges by relying on one another, maintaining strong relationships, and never losing sight of their responsibilities to future generations. Those same teachings continue to guide us today.

As we look ahead, Huy'wu'qw and Council remain focused on advancing the priorities identified by our community, protecting and exercising our inherent rights and title, strengthening governance, supporting our families, preserving our culture and language, and creating opportunities for future generations.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Elders, youth, volunteers, staff, organizers, families, and members who helped make each of these gatherings a success. Your contributions, whether large or small, help strengthen our Nation and uphold the spirit of community that defines Leey'qsun. Together, we honour where we come from, celebrate where we are today, and continue the work of building the future our ancestors envisioned for us.

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

Huy tseep qu Siem,

Huy'wu'qw and Council

Huy'wu'qw Laxele'wuts'aat
Hereditary Chief Shana Thomas

Elected Council Member
Shayli Robinson

Elected Council Member
Brena Robinson

Elected Council Member
Jennifer Jones



Don't forget to read the full 2025-2026 Annual Service Report, now available at:

lyackson.bc.ca/2025-2026-annual-service-report

