



OFFICE: LAND OF MAQUINNA CULTURAL SOCIETY
100 Ouwatin Road, Isakana, British Columbia
MAILING: PO BOX 638, Gold River, British Columbia V0P 1G0

December 21, 2017

Mayor Jude Schooner
Village of Tahsis
977 South Maquinna Drive,
Tahsis BC V0P 1X0

Dear Mayor Schooner,

I am writing to ask for the support of the Village of Tahsis - based on its many, many years of close association with the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation - for the restoration of the church at Yuquot.

As you will see from the enclosed information sheet, the Land of Maquinna Cultural Society and the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation have begun a program of work that, over the next few years, aims to upgrade and protect the heritage features of this very important building. The church is central to the future of Yuquot as the spiritual home of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht people and as one of British Columbia most important historic sites.

We have been working closely with heritage consultants Gord Macdonald and Ben Gourlay of Heritageworks in Victoria in developing plans to return the building to its original configuration, and have been most fortunate to secure the services of Kinsol Timber Framing Systems of Cobble Hill in undertaking the work. Both companies are not only based on Vancouver Island but are vastly experienced in the field of heritage conservation.

Funding from the province's BC/Canada 150 Fund and Parks Canada's National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places require matching funds, which to date have been provided by the MMFN - especially - and the society from its own limited resources. We are therefore seeking donations to maximize the available grants.

The LOMCS is a registered charity with the Canada Revenue Agency. All contributions to the 'Yuquot Church Restoration Project', therefore, will receive a formal receipt. I hope, therefore, that you and your Council can assist us with this important and worthwhile initiative.

Yours very sincerely


Margarita James
President

Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation and Land of Maquinna Cultural Society
RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH AT YUQUOT, 2018-2019

The ancient village of Yuquot is located at the southern edge of Nootka Island off the west coast of Vancouver Island. In recognition of this being a place of first contact between the indigenous peoples of the coast of British Columbia and the wider Euro-American world in the 1770s, "Nootka Sound" was designated in 1923 as one of Canada's first National Historic Sites. The next year, a plaque was installed on a cairn near the village, overlooking the ocean.

Some eighty years later, however, in response to a position paper and request put forward by the Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation, the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada changed the designation to recognize "Yuquot". A new plaque was created to recognize the village as, first and foremost, the centre of the social, political and economic world of the Mowachaht-Muchalaht people over thousands of years; and only secondarily as a key site of native first contact with visitors from beyond the Northwest Coast of America.

In the 1950s, a new Catholic church was built to serve the village, replacing a smaller, long-standing one lost in a fire. In a neo-Gothic style with arched windows along the length of the structure, buttresses and a bell tower capped off with a spire, it sits impressively on high ground between Friendly Cove and the open sea. Today, with the villagers having long-since moved, first to Ahaminaquus and then to Tsaxana on the mainland, this former church has been transformed into a cultural and interpretive centre for the members of the Band and for the numerous visitors to Yuquot every summer. It is a vital community and public space.

The wet and wild weather experienced at Yuquot has, over the years, presented a challenge to the Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation with respect to the church's annual maintenance. In recent years, a new roof has helped to avert the worst ravages of water penetration – a significant issue with any wooden building exposed on the west coast of Canada. In 2016 funding from the MMFN and Parks Canada's National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places allowed the Land of Maquinna Cultural Society to undertake a Condition Assessment Report; it found that while the structure was basically sound there were a number of priority items that needed swift attention. Further federal and provincial funding for 2017-2018 has allowed the LOMCS and the MMFN to address some of these issues related to the steeple roof and flashing, gutters and window replacement and repair. By the end of March 2018, it is expected that new flooring required throughout the entire main floor, and interior walls and a new outside door required for the old Priest's Quarters, used by site staff in the summer, will be installed.

The funding from Parks Canada this federal fiscal year requires matching funds and, so as to maximize the grant, donations are required; to date 83% of the available funding has been matched. The LOMCS, therefore, has launched a campaign to raise the necessary funds to put the project 'over the top.' Every dollar donated is worth \$2.00 towards the church's restoration.

November, 2017.



Yuquot and Friendly Cove, Summer 2016 (Photo: Macdonald & Lawrence)



Yuquot Church, Summer 2016
(Photo: Macdonald & Lawrence)



Chief Maquinna House Posts & Sculptures
(Photo: Michael McGee, 2013)



Steeple Work, Fall 2017
(Photo: Robin Inglis)



Priest's Quarters: Gutters, reconfiguration of a door to a window (left) + new door facing front of the church (Photo: Robin Inglis, Fall, 2017)

**LAND OF MAQUINNA CULTURAL SOCIETY
YUQUOT CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT**

Please accept this donation of \$ _____ in support of the Yuquot Church Restoration Project.

A cheque made out to the 'Land of Maquinna Cultural Society' is enclosed.

Name and Address to appear on the receipt for Income Tax purposes:

Full Legal Name _____

Address _____

Contact Name (if different from above) _____

Contact Telephone Number _____ e-mail _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Land of Maquinna Cultural Society, PO Box 638, Gold River, BC V0P 1G0

THANK YOU !!