

## Nashuk Youth Council: A Year in Review



Above photos (top): Nashuk members experienced a variety of careers as part of the 2012 Uu-a-thluk job shadowing program. Pictured here, members tag along on a whale watching tour. (Below): The Nashuk Youth Council builds connections between youth, culture, and ocean resources. L to R: Danielle Jones, Keenan Jules, Marshall Keitlah, Mitcholos Touchie, Margaret August, and coordinator, Norine Messer.

“Nashuk” means  
inner strength.

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Members of the Nashuk Youth Council had a busy year in 2012 and their activities aren't over yet. Formed in 2008 to help Nuu-chah-nulth youth learn about their cultural connection to ocean resources, the Nashuk Youth Council has introduced more than 1000 youth to traditional Nuu-chah-nulth roles and responsibilities and the common foods enjoyed by our ancestors.

Last year the council continued its activities with a spring leadership retreat. Organized by senior members of the council, the retreat enabled new members to learn about being in a youth council, speaking in public,

participating in their communities, and hosting discussions.

The retreat also focussed on the resource management roles held by Nuu-chah-nulth leaders, now and in the past.

In June, the Nashuk Youth Council helped organize and deliver the Uu-a-thluk

Career Fair at the Hupacasath House of Gathering. Council members helped guide the fair's direction by deciding what jobs youth were most interested in learning about. Cory Curley, a member of Nashuk, was the fair's emcee, thanks to support and coaching from Wis-qii (Robert Dennis Jr).

The career fair featured booths and presentations from Uu-a-thluk, West Coast Aquatic, Hupacasath Fisheries, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, Mainstream Canada, a variety of training institutions, and Nuu-chah-nulth fishing guides. More than 150 students and community members attended the day.

Later that summer, Nashuk Members

took part in a job shadowing program in Tofino, Ucluelet and Ahousaht. The program introduced youth to a variety of marine jobs and included visits with fisheries biologists, fisheries managers and technicians, a water taxi operator, and a handful of local guides servicing the tourism industry. On each visit, youth experienced ocean-based careers first-hand. They also learned what training, schooling and certification they needed for these positions.

At the end of October, several youth returned to the Council of Ha'wiih Forum on Fisheries to formally seat Ha'wiih before the three-day meeting began. Using protocols and procedures learned at previous Nashuk events, the youth were pleased to take part in this customary practice known as *titiqpit*.

“I believe that it's important to seat the chiefs,” said Olivia Shewish, one of the youth who took part. “I get to learn who the hereditary chiefs are and the nations they are from. The Ha'wiih are the ones helping to make our future very bright.”

*“We have another year of exciting activities ahead of us and are interested in meeting any Nuu-chah-nulth youth who might like to join the Nashuk Youth Council.”*

—Norine Messer, Capacity Building Coordinator

Danielle Jones, another youth, agreed. “It's important to seat the chiefs because we are acknowledging who they are and the work they do for our communities. Seating them also shows them respect.”

After wrapping up a busy 2012, youth council members are now planning to attend the February 13-15 appeal hearing on Nuu-chah-nulth Fishing Rights in Vancouver. During the same month, the youth council

will also help representatives from the Council of Ha'wiih deliver a cultural immersion workshop to employees of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

“We have another year of exciting activities ahead of us and we are interested in meeting any Nuu-chah-nulth youth who might like to join the Nashuk Youth Council,” said Capacity Building Coordinator, Norine Messer. “Many of our senior members are ready to move on to post-secondary education, and this leaves space for more members with new ideas. We hope anyone with an interest will contact us or drop by our meetings to see what we're about.”

For more information on the Nashuk Youth Council, contact Norine Messer at [norinemesser@hotmail.com](mailto:norinemesser@hotmail.com) or visit the council's Facebook page (search “Nashuk Youth Council”). The Nashuk Youth Council will resume its biweekly meetings on Tuesday, January 14 at 3:30 at VAST Centre.



Giselle Martin of Tla-ook Cultural Adventures gives the Nashuk Youth Council a taste of eco-tour guiding in Tla-o-qui-aht territory.