



Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council

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Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council (NTC) responds to sentencing of Rykel Charleson and Mitchell Frank in death of Dontay Lucas

NTC hopes sentencing is step towards closure for all who are grieving

May 16, 2024, Hupacasath and Tseshaht Territories, Port Alberni, BC — The Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council, representing 14 Indigenous Nations on Vancouver Island, responds to the sentencing hearing of Rykel Charleson and Mitchell Frank, the mother and stepfather of Dontay Lucas, who plead guilty to manslaughter in his death.

In March 2018, the Nuuchahnulth Nation lost a precious one, Dontay Lucas. His death is a tragedy and a great loss for the entire Nuuchahnulth Nation.

“Our thoughts are with the family, friends and communities of Dontay Lucas who continue to remember him and grieve his loss,” says Cloy-e-iis, Judith Sayers, President, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council. “Our Nation is heartbroken at the loss of this young soul whose tragic death has had a profound and long-lasting impact on the Nuuchahnulth communities.”

Vice President Les Doiron added: “We all want justice for Dontay. We hope today’s sentencing provides some comfort to all who have been impacted. The NTC deeply respects the strength of the Lucas family in expressing forgiveness to Rykel Charleson and Mitchell Frank in the courtroom after sentencing. We encourage everyone to respect this tremendous act of forgiveness so that Dontay can finally rest and his family, friends and community can continue on their healing path.”

“Nothing can ultimately fill the huge hole left by Dontay’s death, particularly for his siblings,” said President Sayers. “We are hopeful today’s sentencing brings some measure of solace and healing to everyone still reeling from this loss. The death of a child is never easy, but it is particularly painful when it’s under these circumstances.”

About Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) provides programs and services to over 10,000 registered members. The role of the NTC is to represent 14 First Nations in three regions stretching 300 kilometers of the Pacific Coast of Vancouver Island from Brooks Peninsula in the north to Point-no-Point in the south. The NTC represents Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Ehattesaht/Chinehkint, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay- aht, Kyuquot/Checklesah, Mowachaht /Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tseshah, Uchucklesah and Ucluelet First Nations and provides a variety of programs and services to them.

For more information, please visit www.nuuchahnulth.org

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