



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

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DITIDAHT
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HESQUIAHT
HUPACASATH

HUU-AY-AHT
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MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT
NUCHATLAHT
TLA-O-QUI-AHT

TOQUAHT
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June 24, 2021

Nuu-chah-nulth Nations Support the *Hišuk ma cawak Declaration of Ditidaht , Huu-ay-aht and Pacheedaht First Nations*

Port Alberni, BC – On June 4th, Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht and Pacheedaht First Nations signed the *Hišuk ma cawak Declaration* regarding their Governance and Stewardship responsibilities in their territories. The Nuu-chah-nulth Nations that are members of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council fully support these Nations and their Declaration.

The Nuu-chah-nulth position on old growth and forestry is that every First Nation must manage their own territories including their forests according to their own principles, values, and laws.

The Nuu-chah-nulth Nations honours the collective efforts of Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht and Pacheedaht to uphold their sacred responsibilities and principles and are fully supportive of these First Nations to assert and advance their governance, perspectives and strategies around forestry management and conservation. Chiefs of the First Nations Summit also passed a motion of support.

The *Hišuk ma cawak* Declaration states “It is time for our principles, authority and responsibilities to be respected so that we can work for win-win stewardship solutions to heal our lands, our waters and our people for the benefit of our current and future generations-this will take time.

The Huu-ay-aht First Nation announced the upcoming development of its *Hišuk ma cawak* Integrated Resource Management Plan (HIRMP) which will be a coordinated plan for forest and environment management in their territory. Ditidaht and Pacheedaht is doing the same.

President Judith Sayers said “The Nuu-chah-nulth Nations are pleased to support the endeavours of Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht and Pacheedaht in asserting their rights to their territories and their effort to manage their territories to their own values. We ask the BC government to uphold and implement the *Hišuk ma cawak Declaration* with these 3 Nations and give them time to develop their own Integrated resources plans according to their values, principles and laws. We are encouraged the Premier Horgan agreed to a 2 year deferral in Fairy Creek and the central Walbran while their resources plans are being develop.”

Vice President Mariah Charleson stated “if the BC government wants to show they are intent on living up to their own law, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, they will

honour the principles of UNDRIP and utilize those principles in working with Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht and Pacheedaht.”

If BC is to implement UNDRIP in forestry it means that First Nations have ownership and jurisdiction over the forests in their territories. First Nations would manage them sustainably under their own values, principles and laws as stated in the Declaration by Ditidaht, Huu-ah-aht and Pacheedaht. NTC looks forward to working with BC to uphold the declaration and implement UNDRIP.

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About Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council

The Nuuchahnulth 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/Chinehkont, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Kyuquot/Checklesah, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tseshaht, Uchucklesaht and Ucluelet First Nations and provides a variety of programs and services to them.

For more information, please visit www.nuuchahnulth.org.

The Hišuk ma cawak Declaration:

“For most of the past 150 years we have watched as others decide what is best for our lands, for our waters and for our people. Our three sacred principles are often ignored. We are too often the last to benefit from what is taken out and the last to be asked what must be put back in. That time is over. It is time for our principles, authority and responsibilities to be respected so that we can work for win-win stewardship solutions to heal our lands, our waters and our people for the benefit of our current and future generations-this will take time.

From this day forward, in accordance with our traditional laws and our constitutionally protected Aboriginal Title, Aboriginal Rights, and Treaty Rights, we declare that our governance and stewardship responsibilities in our Hahoulthee must be acknowledged and respected. Third parties - whether they be companies, organizations, other governments, or individuals - have no right to speak on our behalf, or on behalf of the

lands, waters and resources in our Hahoulthee. Moreover, for third parties to be welcome in our Hahoulthee, they must respect our governance and stewardship, our sacred principles, and our right to economically benefit from our resources”