



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

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NTC Appalled at Another Shooting of a Nuu-chah-nulth Person by RCMP

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Port Alberni, BC: On Saturday, May 8th, the RCMP shot a Nuu-chah-nulth woman on the Hitacu reserve (Port Albion) when they were called to a domestic dispute. Thankfully, the shots were not fatal and the Nuu-chah-nulth woman is recovering in hospital from her wounds.

Nuu-chah-nulth are shocked and appalled that another shooting by RCMP of a Nuu-chah-nulth person has happened so soon after the last shooting just 2 months ago. These senseless shootings are far too much and should not be happening.

We do not know the circumstances in which the RCMP officer shot this woman but we are told she had a weapon but we feel this is not an excuse. We do not know if she was a danger to the officer or if the officer reacted out of fear, panic, or out of racism. We do know however there are many alternatives to de-escalate situations that do not require a person to be shot multiple times. We have seen many instances where armed non-First Nations who are actively harming people/infrastructure be arrested without incident. We ask that our people receive the same humane treatment that the rest of society receives and that the violence and harm stop.

What we do know and have been saying over and over again is that these shootings by police have to stop now! Tla-o-qui-aht has had 3 members shot by police in the past 11 months, 2 fatally. This is unjustifiable. Chantel Moore was shot by Edmundston City police. Within the last 2 months, Joseph Jones was shot and killed on the Opitsaht reserve and now this shooting.

Judith Sayers President of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council said “How can this be happening again? This has become an epidemic, 3 shootings to us is an epidemic. We call on Public Safety Minister Bill Blair, RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki, BC Solicitor Mike Farnworth to work with us to immediately revamp police officers de-escalation training, increase their cultural training and address racism so there are no more shootings of Nuu-chah-nulth people. We cannot afford another loss in our communities at the hands of RCMP officers. While we are working with RCMP to try and resolve these issues, we must act quicker and ensure the cooperation of the RCMP to make changes.”

Mariah Charleson Vice President of the Nuu-chah-nulth commented that “The impact of these shootings in our Nuu-chah-nulth communities is devastating. People are horrified after hearing gun shots fired in their communities, a place we all have the right to feel safe. When the RCMP, who are meant to protect us, are the ones shooting us, we are in real trouble. We need to end this violent epidemic of police violence. We can't let the 231 Calls to Justice from the MMIWG Final report collect any more dust, let's put them to work and begin to implement them now.”

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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/Checklesaht, Mowachaht /Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tsessaht, Uchucklesaht and Ucluelet First Nations and provides a variety of programs and services to them.

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