



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT
DITIDAHT
ʔIIHATIS / ČIINAᖅINT
HESQUIAHT
HUPACASATH

HUU-AY-AHT
KA:ʔYU:KʔHʔCHE:K:TLES7ETʔHʔ
MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT
NUCHATLAHT
TLA-O-QUI-AHT

TOQUAHT
TSESHAHT
UCHUCKLESAHT
YUUʔ.UʔIʔATH

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Nuu-chah-nulth Nations Have First COVID-19 Case On Reserve And a Call to BC to Act Now

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Port Alberni, BC – The Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council reports that there is now one case on reserve in Nuuchahnulth territories. One member has tested positive for the virus.

Tyii Hawilth of the community states “community is taking this COVID-19 case very seriously. We are taking all steps to prevent the virus from spreading in the community. We have set protocols in place that we are following. We are using all available services including the nursing team at the NTC, First Nations Health Authority and Island Health and we thank all these groups for helping their community in a time of crisis.”

On June 9th, the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council issued 4 requirements they wanted in place before the province was opened up to Stage 3. It was not until the Heiltsuk, Tsilhqot’in and Nuuchahnulth issued a collective statement on June 28th that the province started paying attention to those requirements. It was not until mid-July that a table with BC and the 3 Nations was established, where they could talk about these 4 requirements: rapid testing, screening of people before coming into the territory, training and implementation of culturally safe contact tracing, and a communications protocol that would ensure Nuuchahnulth Nations know the location of a Covid-19 case that is close to their communities, so they could be properly prepared.

President Judith Sayers commented “having a damaging case of COVID on reserve is what we have been working against for some months now. This is a critical situation. When the province opened to Stage 3 without our consent, the numbers of new COVID cases have tripled and even quadrupled daily and we knew it was a matter of time before one of our on reserve members contracted the virus. Premier John Horgan and Minister Scott Fraser must mandate the tables we have set up so we can find immediate solutions to protect our members. We must not wait any longer and certainly do not want an outbreak in our communities before the province reacts.”

Vice President Mariah Charleson added “Despite all our efforts to have BC meet our basic health requirements, we have not been able to find viable solutions. We call on the government of BC and all its health authorities to work closely with NTC and our Nations to support our communities with what we need to prevent the spreading of this devastating virus to our members. This is a great opportunity for Premier Horgan and BC to step up to the challenge and practice true reconciliation; we demand action.”

“Let us work together so there are no more cases on reserve for Nuuchahnulth people.”
Concluded Judith Sayers.

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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, Ehatesaht/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.