



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT
DITIDAHT
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HESQUIAHT
HUPACASATH

HUU-AY-AHT
KA:'YU:'K'T'H'/CHE:K:TLES7ET'H'
MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT
NUCHATLAHT
TLA-O-QUI-AHT

TOQUAHT
TSESHAHT
UCHUCKLESAHT
Yuuluᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ

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Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Congratulates Haida on Recognition of their Title by BC

April 22, 2024– Hupacasath and Tseshaht Territories, Port Alberni, BC

Today the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council stands proudly with the Haida Nation to help them celebrate a truly great accomplishment - that is having Haida Title recognized explicitly in B.C. law and the tabling of the Haida Title Lands Act. Haida are once again ground breaking and leading the way!!

President Judith Sayers stated, "The Haida have been here since time immemorial - longer than the mind can know and they own, manage and use all of Haida Gwaii. There is no doubt that they have title within Haida Gwaii and it's about time that B.C. recognized that. I only ask where is Canada in this recognition?"

The colonial law makes First Nations prove they have an aboriginal title to the land when it is the settlers that have come in and asserted title. This runs contrary to reconciliation and UNDRIP and is not an acceptable avenue.

In international law in order to take over land you have to win it in a war or enter into a treaty to gain title. The doctrine of discovery has been repudiated so that theory can no longer be used. Canada and B.C. have never won a war or entered into a treaty with Haida and should have to prove why they have Crown title so it is fitting that Haida title is recognized.

The NTC has worked with the Haida over the years and most recently in the establishment of a Marine protected area in our marine territories called Tang,ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ – ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ – Tsigis Marine Protected Area.

Vice President Les Doiron reflected, "The Haida leadership is strong, Innovative and visionary in fighting for their land, rights, resources and people. Through the years they have achieved much in establishing Gwaii Haanas, the Haida consultation court case, the Haida Reconciliation Act and a joint decision-making model. This title law is another big step forward."

President Sayers also remembers, "I was at the First Nation Summit in 2002 when the Haida arrived in great ceremony when they were about to file their title case in court. They sent Terry Lynn Davidson off as their runner to file in court after they did all their ceremonial protocols. Now years later, there was no need for court, just hard negotiations."

President Sayers concludes, "We congratulate Haida and B.C. for the Rising Tides agreement and the introduction into the legislature of Haida Title Lands Act. Well done! We look forward to other First Nations title being recognized in the same way going forward without having to go through the courts in a lengthy expensive way."

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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/Chinehkint, 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.