



# Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT  
DITIDAHT  
?IIHATIS / ?IINA?INT  
HESQUIAHT  
HUPACASATH

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

TOQUAHT  
TSESHAHT  
UCHUCKLESAHT  
YUU?U?I?ATH

P.O. BOX 1383  
PORT ALBERNI, BC  
V9Y 7M2  
Tel: 250-724-5757  
Fax:250-723-0463

## **Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council sends condolences to grieving family & friends of 20-year-old Nuuchahnulth murder victim & calls to end violence**

March 30, 2021

**Port Alberni, BC-** It was just this past Saturday, March 27, 2021, when people of Port Alberni woke up to a taped off section of town directly in front of the Port Alberni Friendship Centre surrounded by local RCMP. Later that day, the Port Alberni RCMP released a statement letting the public know that there was a man in his twenties found dead in front of the Port Alberni Friendship Centre and that it was being treated as suspicious.

At that point, despite not knowing the identity of the deceased, Nuuchahnulth elders cleaned the area later that evening. Yesterday, the identity of the young man was released in the Ha-shilth-sa with permission from the mother. The Port Alberni RCMP also released another statement yesterday on March 29<sup>th</sup>, now calling the death the result of homicide.

During these tragic times, the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council wishes to send our deepest condolences to the grieving family, friends, and communities impacted by this extremely tragic loss. We call upon each and every person to take this tragedy and turn it into action to end violence within our homes, relationships, and communities. Our people are disproportionately impacted by violence and we know that we can all take part in changing this reality. We can no longer watch our loved ones lose their lives as a result of violence, we can all do better.

We have a large Nuuchahnulth population that resides in and around the area, we know that this tragic incident had a ripple effect through the community of Port Alberni and beyond and we acknowledge that. Many families were checking in on their loved ones. This caused much anxiety within Port Alberni and those with family and friends in Port Alberni. We also remind those who may be grieving or struggling to reach out for help and to also encourage anyone who has any information at all regarding events leading to the death of the young man to please call the Port Alberni RCMP at 250-723-2424.

President Judith Sayers states "This is extremely saddening and scary to know that we lost a 20-year-old man who still had a world of living to do. We know he was valued and loved by many. We are told he had a gentle spirit and would never hurt a soul. He had a life of potential ahead and that was taken from him as a result of violence. We must all do better to ending violence."

Vice-president Mariah Charleson adds "When a 20-year-old Nuuchahnulth man ends up murdered in our streets, we must all do better. I heard time and time again at the vigil held last night how important it is to "take care of one another", I urge you all to do that. My deepest condolences go to the family and friends of this valued, cherished, and loved Nuuchahnulth man."

Kekinusuqs, Judith Sayers, President, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council  
P: 250.724.5757 ext. 231 or 25-720-5621  
E: judith.sayers@nuuchahnulth.org

Mariah Charleson, Vice President, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council  
P: 250-731-7218  
E: Mariah.charleson@nuuchahnulth.org

#### 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/Chinehkint, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ayaht, 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](http://www.nuuchahnulth.org).