



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT
DITIDAHT
ʔIIHATIS / ČIINAŦINT
HESQUIAHT
HUPACASATH

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

TOQUAHT
TSESHAHT
UCHUCKLESAHT
YUUŦ.UʔŦŦATH

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NTC DISILLUSIONED AND FRUSTRATED AT IIO FINDING OF NO FAULT OF RCMP OFFICER IN SHOOTING OF JULIAN JONES

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Nuu-chah-nulth Territories - The NTC is disillusioned, frustrated and devastated that the Independent Investigations Office that investigated the February 27, 2021 shooting of Julian Jones by an RCMP officer has ruled that there was no fault by the officer. Julian Jones was a Tla-o-qui-aht member and the shooting happened on the Opitsaht reserve in Tla-o-qui-aht Territory (off of Tofino, BC.)

It is disillusioning and frustrating that once again an RCMP officer killed a First Nation person without consequences. There is always hope that justice will happen for our First Nations people who lose their life in these circumstances.

This shooting was a terrible shock to the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and all Nuuchah-nulth Nations and peoples. The news that there will be no charges is further devastating and hurtful to the family, community and Nation. There is always hope that the system will bring justice for a person killed by police, but the reality never lives up to this hope as the system is stacked against us.

It was the second police shooting of a Tla-o-qui-aht member in nine months, the first being Chantel Moore on June 4, 2020 in New Brunswick by an Edmundston City Police Officer. A Quebec independent investigative office (BIA) also ruled there would be no charges against the police officer despite fatal shots fired at Chantel Moore.

Judith Sayers, President of NTC, states, "The justice system does not bring justice to First Nations people and must be fixed. We repeat we need the RCMP and other police forces to:

1. Train their officers to disarm as opposed to freely shooting any way officers feel is needed.
2. More effective training on de-escalation of situations so no shooting is necessary
3. Independent Investigative Office be changed to be more reflective and inclusive of First Nations in their process.
4. Setting up an alternate system to 911 for wellness checks where trauma informed people respond as opposed to police.
5. Body Cams in every police station for their officers.
6. Greater communication and protocols with First Nations"

President Sayers also stated that, "We cannot stand by and watch more of our people be shot by police. Changes must happen now!! How would you feel if one of your family members were shot by police and there were no consequences for that shooting and killing?"

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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/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.