



# Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT  
DTIDAHT  
ʔIIHATIS / ČIINAXINT  
HESQUIAHT  
HUPACASATH

HUU-AY-AHT  
KA:YU:K'TH/CHE:K:TLES7ET'H  
MOWACHAHT/MUCHALAHT  
NUCHATLAHT  
TLA-O-QUI-AHT

TOQUAHT  
TSESHAHT  
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YUJL.UJL.ʔATH

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## NTC DENOUNCES THE SHOOTING OF RODNEY LEVI

**MEDIA RELEASE: June 15, 2020, Port Alberni, BC, Nuu-chah-nulth Territories**

The Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council denounces the actions of the RCMP in the shooting of Rodney Levi on Friday night. The NTC stands with Chief Bill Ward of the Metepenagiag, six chiefs in the Wolastoqey First Nation and the New Brunswick AFN Regional Chief Roger Augustine in calls to end systemic racism in policing and the senseless killing of Indigenous Peoples. We demand answers as to why the shooting of Rodney Levi happened – just nine days after the killing of Chantel Moore.

Judith Sayers, President of the NTC, continues this demand for answers: “We are outraged by the violence and deaths by police in New Brunswick. Within 9 days, 2 Indigenous people were shot and killed senselessly. Our hearts go out to Rodney Levi’s and Chantel Moore’s families and communities.”

Mariah Charleson, Vice President of NTC, states that, “NTC demands immediate change in policing. We can’t wait for more inquiries or inquests.”

Sayers says, “We demand immediate meetings with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister Bill Blair and Commissioner Brenda Lucki so we can collectively determine immediate action that can take place now. Lives are at stake. We challenge them to walk their talk to change things today.”

NTC urgently requests all Chiefs, leaders and Indigenous Peoples to send emails, or make calls to the PM, the Minister and Commissioner to echo this call for critical action now.

We also ask all Canadians to support Indigenous Peoples and demand action from the Canadian and provincial governments in policing.

Immediate action must be taken to re-evaluate the role of police in responding to crisis situations, as having officers trained to de-escalate situations still results in senseless killings. What we need are trained, unarmed, non-violent first responders to respond to crisis situations involving wellness checks, mental health and addictions. We need people who know how to work with individuals with mental health issues, or let us form teams of people who already have this training to deal with wellness checks and attend mental health incidents.

First and foremost, this is an act of self-determination. We determine how we care for our communities, but we must acknowledge the legacy of colonialism and the underfunding of our communities in education, housing, health, and economy. Indigenous Peoples must be involved in this re-evaluation and process that will determine further changes for policing in our communities. We must re-examine the First Nations Policing Program, and invest in

self-administered Indigenous alternatives. We must also stress that investment in economic and social programs for on and off-reserve members must be part our calls of action.

Chantel Moore's tragic death would have been different if the officer knew how to approach a single woman's door respectfully – without arms and violence - in the middle of the night. Rodney Levi would still be alive if the officers knew how to deal with someone who was having a mental health crisis. These are things we can't take back, but things we can change in the future to prevent other Indigenous Peoples from the same fate.

At the foundation of this police violence is colonialism. Chantel and Rodney's deaths occurred during the same week we saw the senseless beating of Chief Allan Adam and a Dene man, Benjamin Manuel in Yellowknife. Since April, eight Indigenous People have been shot and killed by police. Eishia Hudson, Jason Collins, Stewart Kevin Andrews, Everett Patrick, Regis Korchinski Paquet, Abraham Natanine. This is not including the investigations of police violence in Nunavut. This police violence is a stark reminder that the historical role of policing in forcibly controlling and displacing Indigenous Peoples continues to this day. Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately brutalized, criminalized, and killed as a result of policing in Canada. What is our crime? Being Indigenous.

We are at a turning point. We must recognize this violence as a problem and work together as Nations to say enough is enough. Not one more life. Systemic racism in Canada exists because of colonialism and the goal of "getting rid of the Indian". Many things have changed in our relationship with government, but policing has not. From suppressing our culture and ceremonies during the potlach ban to implementing laws that tried to get rid of us, our relationship with the RCMP has been violent since the outset. It is time for the federal, provincial, and municipal governments to recognize systemic racism in policing and take immediate action with Indigenous Peoples to address it.

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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-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).

