



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT
DITIDAHT
%IIH=ATIS / C*IINAX=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: 250.724.2172

Nuu-chah-nulth Stand with Wet'suwet'en February 11, 2020, Port Alberni, BC, Nuuchahnulth Territories

The Nuuchahnulth have been watching with dismay as the RCMP enter onto Wet'suwet'en lands and arrest and forcibly remove heads of their government, matriarchs and community members who are peacefully defending their lands, which is within their laws. We have seen the RCMP use an unprecedented amount of force and ---- while enforcing an injunction including destroying sacred fires and practices that were happening.

Why send in the troops to dismantle various camps when the RCMP could have sat down and talked with Chiefs, respected them and found a way to achieve ways to do their job and work with indigenous peoples in a good way?

For years, we have been trying to build and strengthen our relations with the RCMP and to see them in this role erodes our trust in how we can work together in the future. Where is the cultural sensitivity? Where is the respect? Watching the arrest of the many, the destruction of sacred fires and the demand to have the Chiefs not be on their own lands has caused outrage with our youth, elders and Chiefs.

Having the Charter of Rights Freedom of the Press curtailed is also unacceptable. The press must be able to observe and report on what is really happening.

Indigenous peoples across the country are saying that reconciliation is dead. The RCMP, the Government of British Columbia, and the Government of Canada, have been pushing the reconciliation agenda and stating that they want to reconcile for past wrongs but where is the Prime Minister? Where is the Premier? How are they fighting for reconciliation? For UNDRIP? Instead, indigenous peoples continue to be forcibly removed from their territories, and jobs and revenue continue to take precedence over First Nations consent over their territories. The government is fueled by corporations and not reconciliation.

We stand with the Wet'suwet'en in protecting their lands, waters and resources from development of gas pipelines.

We stand with the supporters of the defenders of the land across this country especially our youth.

From Unistoten/Wet'suwet'en to Elispogtog, from Enbridge to Lelu island, from Muskrat Falls to Site C, TMX to Line 3, Oka to Gustafson Lake, First Nations people have had to stand up and fight back for their lands and sacred places. We are in a time of climate crisis and working hard

for our collective livable future and these developments works against that. These conflicts will never end without free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples, their self-determination and respect for the environment.

Contacts:

Kekinusuqs

Judith Sayers, President Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council

P: 250.724.5757 ext. 231 or 250-720-5621

E: judith.sayers@nuuchahnulth.org

About Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council

-30-

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.