



# Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

AHOUSAHT  
DITIDAHT  
%IHH=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%l<%ATH=

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

## Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and Yuulu?il?ath First Nation Call on RCMP to Treat Death of James Williams as Suspicious

June 18, 2021

**Port Alberni, BC-** Just under a month from now will mark the one-year anniversary of the finding of James Williams, a beloved father, grandfather, brother, friend, and valued Nuuchahnulth man, deceased in his room at Warmland House in Duncan, BC shortly after being released from RCMP custody on July 16, 2020 prompting the Independent Investigations Office (IIO) of BC to launch an investigation into the untimely death.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 the IIO's investigators along with Chief Civilian Director (CCD) Ron MacDonald met with family of late James to go over the findings of the final report of the investigation into the death of James Williams. The findings in the report determined that there was no wrong doing by the Police officers who arrested and monitored James while in RCMP custody and that his death was not caused due to RCMP action.

The report can be found publicly on the IIO website here: <https://iiobc.ca/public-reports/july-16-2020-duncan-death-2020-170/>. Within the final report, the autopsy determines that James' death was caused by "(a) subdural and subarachnoid hemorrhage; and (b) blunt head trauma", subsequently the report states "Bruises were found on Mr. Williams' torso and left leg. There was bruising over the eighth, ninth, and tenth ribs on the right side, with no associated fracture. There were fractures of the fourth and fifth ribs on the right side with "minimal to no associated bruising".

Due to the nature of the injuries listed in the report, we are calling on the RCMP to treat the death of late James Williams as suspicious and follow through with a transparent and complete investigation.

We would also like to express the recommendations made by the family of late James Williams regarding his untimely death: RCMP wear body cams, communication log be kept for changing shift officers and jail guards in RCMP detachment, nurse on site at RCMP detachment, broader scope of "sobering centers", access to elder or cultural support in detachments/cells, Indigenous liaison officer in RCMP detachments, and access to a family/Indigenous advocate within RCMP detachments/cells. We urge the RCMP, IIO, and those who have the power and will to change this reality to take these recommendations seriously and do what it takes to implement positive change.

λeeko λeeko,

čuu



Kekinusqs, 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-ay-aht, Kyuquot/Checklesah, Mowachaht /Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tseshah, 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).