

Nuxalk Nation Government



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Press Release

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"First of all; we acknowledge and recognize Tatau, the Creator through Manakays, the Great Spirit for all that is provided for us since the beginning of time and still is today."

The Nuxalk People will continue to defend and protect the ISTA (Fog Creek on King Island) from Interfor. They will preserve and occupy the Fog Creek Watershed. Mid coast area environmental issues are highly political. ISTA is not an enforcement issue. The sovereignty stance taking place at ISTA is in no way part of the BC Treaty Process.

Interfor claimed it would leave ISTA intact and not destroy the salmon creeks. It promised to install culverts as part of the BC Forest Ministry requirement for abandoning a logging road.

Three Interfor workers showed up this morning on the beach at ISTA. They made false statements and empty promises: that they will be leave the area cleaned up and at high tide remove their equipment including dynamite, 3000 gallons of fuel, etc.

Events leading up to Interfor's visit this morning are as follows:

- The Nuxalk Nation Hereditary Chiefs, Elders and Nuxalkmc with the support of the Forest Action Network (FAN) demanded that the dynamite, detonators and equipment be removed from ISTA. 48 hours notice was given to Interfor.
- Six Interfor workers also came to do an inventory of all the dynamite and equipment. They said that they would convey Nuxalk Nation demands to their superiors.

- Phone calls were made to Heiltsuk Nation for support and assistance.
- In response to this request, Heiltsuk Hereditary Chiefs Reggie Moody, Dean Wilson, Don Vickers, and Mitchell Vickers arrived at ISTA on Friday, 15 September 1995, at approximately 1:00 pm. Heiltsuk Nation chiefs pledged their support to the blockade and brought food to help the Nuxalkmc.
- Nuxalk Elders Lucy Mack (86 years old) and Amanda Siwallace (76 years old) made every effort to greet the Heiltsuk People. Lucy walked a 11.5 km hill. Amanda was carried by eight young men the last 100 metres.
- A precedent was set when FAN environmental group joined the Nuxalk Nation sovereign people in a blockade. Another precedent was set when the sovereign people of Nuxalk Nation and Heiltsuk Nation joined in forces to oppose the logging at ISTA.
- The Nuxalkmc received the Heiltsuk with honor. Nuxalk Hereditary Chief Nuximlayc (Lawrence Pootlass) danced the Welcome Honour Dance and Agnes Edgar danced with Chief Liciw7mutusayc (Taylor King).
- An exchange of speeches between Heiltsuk Nation and Nuxalk Nation occurred. These discussions came to the recognition of sovereignty and the protection of ISTA as well as the other watersheds in their overlapping territories. There was also a call for each sovereign nation to work together with each other. The RCMP arrived at 3:30 pm, during this historic occasion.
- The RCMP discussed the situation of the blockade and inspected Interfor equipment. On the request of Chief Nuximlayc (Lawrence Pootlass), the RCMP left their firearms in their boats. Statements were made to the RCMP that this is not an enforcement issue but a political and environmental issue. Helicopter surveillance occurred during the RCMP visit.
- Shortly after the RCMP left, the Heiltsuk departed. As the Heiltsuk representatives left, Hereditary Chief Reggie Moody danced on the bow of his boat to say farewell with the Nuxalk song of "Ahiyala." He pledged that there would be additional support coming from Heiltsuk sovereign People. "We are calling upon all our brother and sister sovereigntists to come together to protect our Home Lands and we also call upon them to support the Gustafsen Lake issue."

For the future of our children, grandchildren and those yet to be born . . .

Way!

**House of Smayusta
Nuxalk Nation Government
Q'umk'uts' (Bella Coola)**