

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."

Today, about 40 RCMP entered into Nuxalk Territory to make arrests including Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas, the Nuxalk People and the environmentalists. The arrests began about 8:00 a.m.

As of this press release, 21 arrests have been made. This includes six Nuxalkmc: Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas, Emily Johnny, Harry Schooner, Ernest Tallio, Warren Snow, and Colette Schooner. Also 15 non native environmentalists. Although many people face incarceration, their spirits remain strong.

The Human Rights of the Nuxalk people are being abrogated. The governments of Canada and British Columbia as well as the court system do not recognize the hereditary and Indigenous Rights of the Nuxalk People. Nuxalknalus (King Island) has not been ceded to any government of Canada or British Columbia. As such, it is not within the jurisdiction of the Indian Act.

Nuxalk Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas stated: "I feel very strong about what I am doing. I cannot step aside. That would be a sign of compromise. I have committed myself to this stand. It's not that I am forced into doing this. I believe in it. This is a decision that I had to make, for all Nuxalk People, the land and our rights. I am Nuxalkmc, I believe in who I am. They (Interfor) are destroying the land by clear cut logging and ISTA is sacred. Our position is to protect what we have in our land and forests."

Chief Qwatsinas continued, "The Great Spirit is flowing upon us, here at ISTA the Killer Whale came with its little one and started talking to us. They no longer hear the trees falling, nor do they hear the

sound of logging trucks. The Whales came from Him, our Great Father, to acknowledge us for what we are doing. The Killer Whales are standing with us. Thank you to all of our supporters throughout the world for the prayers that have been said."

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

Way!

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