

Nuxalk Nation Government



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Press Release

6 June 1997

"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."

About sixty people including the Nuxalk Nation Hereditary Chiefs and Nuxalk People, as well as the Forest Action Network (FAN), Greenpeace, Bearwatch, and PATH environmental groups stopped logging at ISTA (Fog Creek, King Island).

The workers for Interfor were stopped at the bottom of the road near the ocean, where a banner had been placed. At approximately 9:30 am on Friday, 6 June 1997, Interfor served us with an injunction to stop our blockade. This was the same Court ordered injunction that was earlier used by Interfor in 1995. The Nuxalkmc Chiefs and People, as well as environmental groups, remain committed to stop logging at ISTA.

ISTA is an area of the greatest cultural value to the Nuxalkmc. It is a sacred area known as the place where the first lady of the Nuxalk people descended down to Nuxalk Territory from Nusmata, heaven. A highly respected Elder's name, Skuelikwana (Lucy Mack) originated from ISTA. Her name came from two islands, one of which is Nuxalknalus (King Island).

The Nuxalk hereditary leadership and people were put in jail for protecting their sacred site in September 1995.

Interfor was once again given notice on 29 May 1997 by Head Hereditary Chief Nuximlayc:
We are not involved or negotiating under the BC Treaty process. . . You must consider this as a
notice to your company to leave our forests alone.

The Hereditary Chiefs and Elders have stated that we are under our own traditional Nuxalk
laws. Each Nuxalk family has their own Smayusta as to how their first ancestors descended to
earth. Smayusta means origin stories, traditional names, territory, songs dances, and
language/dialect. This must be respected.

The Nuxalk traditional law is not under the Indian Act. The elected band council is governed by
the Indian Act in its administration of government funding. The elected band council does not
have the authority to deal with issues affecting Nuxalkmc traditional law.

The Nuxalk Hereditary Chiefs are asking for your prayers and support.

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)**