

## Nuxalk Nation Government



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**Interfor (International Forests Products Ltd.)  
P.O. Box 49114  
1055 Dunsmuir Street  
Vancouver, BC V7X 1H7**

**Attention: Ric Slaco**

**5 April 2000**

***"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."***

**We, the Nuxalk Hereditary Chiefs and Elders, at a meeting on 3 March 2000, put forth support for the moratorium talks on the Great Bear Rainforest. We understand that while this may not fully support our position on the "Land Question," it compliments our position. In other words, the work and efforts of Greenpeace and the Nuxalkmc to protect and save the ancient temperate rainforest compliment each other.**

**The environmental community has helped us to protect these endangered forests. We know that the forest must remain intact and standing to insure the sustainability of our traditional economy and to ensure the future of the Nuxalkmc as an Indigenous People. Nuxalk traditional social structure has been badly damaged by the rampant clearcut logging of our territories. There has never been any compensation or restitution given to the Nuxalk people for the damage wreaked on our traditional territories and institutions.**

**It was a sad time when two large corporations that existed within the mid-coast of British Columbia (BC) deserted the communities. This left all the communities with social and economic disruptions causing much hardships on the families there. Ocean Falls, once a booming logging town of 6000 people, is now a ghost town. Namu, once a booming fishing town, has not operated for many years now. Treaties will never resolve this issue.**

**One of the conditions for participating in the BC Treaty Process is that the Nuxalk do not disrupt the economy or protect our land by blockading to prevent resource development within our traditional territories. This condition is to create social and economic “certainty” within the region for developers. It is ironic that this condition is demanded of the Nuxalk Nation because social and economic disruption in the mid-coast has already happened.**

**Businesses do not want to “risk” development without economic certainty. On the other hand, from our point of view, there is no “traditional economic or social certainty” for the Nuxalk. There is only the high risk of not sustaining the Nuxalk culture, heritage and way of life of our people. This risk gives the corporations more certainty while destroying the Nuxalk Territory.**

**The fate of our lands has been endangered for many decades and we will continue to protect our forests from the destructive logging practices. We are happy to have the environmental community committed to help protect our lands. If these talks were not happening and the commitments were not there, our forests would continue to be cut down. We watched while Kimsquit and “Hole in the Wall”(Farqhar Valley) were totally destroyed by logging in the 1970's and 80's. We resisted but nothing ever happened. We cannot accept shoddy deals or allow concessions to be made on the remaining ancient temperate rainforests.**

**The Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP) process is a forum for “legalizing the theft of the trees” from our land is associated with the BC Treaty Process. History has shown that timber licenses or tenure has never been issued to First Nations. Those Indian groups willing to deal or negotiate must do so outside the realms of our Indigenous Title. Our Indigenous Title and Rights must not be replaced with corporate status.**

**Whether or not the government has financed the moratorium talks is not relevant because the Minister of Forests, David Zirnhelt, financed the native organization called Oweekeno-Kitasoo-Nuxalk Tribal Council (OKNTC) in the amount of \$20,000 to establish a protocol against the environmental groups in 1998. This protocol was to allow continued clearcut logging and a promise of a handful of logging jobs to the OKNTC.**

**It is good to know that Nuxalk representatives and other First Nations insist that covert (secret) bilateral talks not proceed because “that means these talks were not secret and known by all parties.” We know for a fact that Bella Coola Band Council representatives announced at the LRMP table that they did not want Greenpeace to sit there. It was duly entered on record.**

**We do not support the so-called reconciliation or accord with Interfor and we reject Interfor’s cutting down of CMT’S (Culturally Modified Trees). Things were very quiet at the negotiating table; likely a ploy or tactic to develop further dialogue. Unlike Interfor, indigenous peoples and First Nations have the legal right to cut down trees within their traditional territories for social and ceremonial purposes.**

**Public and international awareness about the senseless destruction of these endangered ancient temperate rainforests is educative and consumers must be made aware of these conditions. It is not a question of whose side to be on; it is a moral and human rights question, We have not given permission to any logging companies to operate or develop in our territories. There is no treaty or agreement in place.**

**We have right to self-determination under International Law. It is our self-determination to have the environmental groups to help save and protect the remaining rainforests. They have followed traditional protocol with us. We thank them very much for all their support and help in doing this.**

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

**cc.  
Greenpeace Germany  
Greenpeace International  
Greenpeace Canada  
Rainforest Action Network  
PATH  
FAN  
OKNTC  
UNPO  
Bella Coola Band Council  
Sierra Legal Defence  
Western Forest Products  
Weyerhaeuser**

**Nuxalk House of Smayusta Chiefs and Elders**  
**Letter to Interfor, 5 April 2000**  
**Signatures:**

Lawrence Pootlass  
 Head Chief Nuximlayc (Lawrence Pootlass)

Edward Moody  
 Chief Qwatsinas (Edward Moody)

David Clellamin  
 Chief TI' alamin ( David Clellamin)

Hazel Hans  
 Chief Umma ( Hazel Hans)

Deric Snow  
 Chief Snuxyaltwa ( Deric Snow)

Philip Hans  
 Chief TI' alamin (Philip Hans)

Noel Pootlass  
 Sixilaaycs (Noel Pootlass )

Taylor King  
 Liciw7mutusayc( Taylor King)

Cecil Moody  
 Chief (Cecil Moody)

Peter Schooner  
 Sats7alanlh (Peter Schooner)

Rhonda Schooner  
 Chief Sxximina (Rhonda Schooner)

Elders

X Amanda Siwallace  
 Amanda Siwallace

Lucy Mack Sr.  
 Lucy Mack

Mercy Snow  
 Mercy Snow

Peter Snow  
 Peter Snow

Simon Schooner  
 Simon Schooner

Jemima Schooner  
 Jemima Schooner

Arthur Pootlass  
 Arthur Pootlass

Kitty Moody  
 Kitty Moody

Victor Moody  
 Victor Moody

Robert Andy Jr.  
 Robert Andy Jr.

Willie Tallio  
 Willie Tallio

Merle Tallio  
 Merle Tallio