



TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

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January 26, 2022

COMMUNITY NOTICE

čišaaʔath (Tseshaht) First Nation Removal of Residential School Memorial at the Orange Bridge

čišaaʔath (Tseshaht) First Nation announces today it will soon begin the gentle and compassionate process of removing memorial items from the Orange Bridge. The removal of these commemorative items is part of a larger initiative of the ʔuuʔatumin yaqckʷiimitqin (Doing it for our Ancestors) Project team. The project team is currently doing longer-term work to establish a more permanent memorial structure. Removing memorial items is also part of a larger picture, environmental commitment our people carry as stewards of the land. The long-term livelihood of the Tsuma as (Somass) River, our lifeblood, and the wildlife it sustains is of utmost importance. Unfortunately, degradation of these memorial pieces has started to happen, threatening the fish and other wildlife ecosystems that feed our community.

To honour our sacred responsibility as stewards of our lands and waters, we ask that our community and members of the public refrain from placing memorial items at this location to help prevent any long-term irreversible damage.

A small private ceremony will be held on Thursday, January 27th as part of our ongoing commitment to providing healing and support for our people.

We respect and honour the significance of each piece, and all non-degradable items will be held until Friday, February 11th. The Administration office is currently operating under strict Covid-19 public health measures and is not open to the public at this time. To arrange for pick-up of memorial items, please contact Melissa Gus (melissa.airs@tseshaht.com or 250-724-1225).

Our project team continues to work and fundraise to establish the more permanent memorial structure. To date, we have raised over \$45,000 in donations. For information on how to contribute to our memorial fund, please visit www.tseshaht.com/airs-team.

For more information and ongoing updates, please visit our Facebook page or website, www.tseshaht.com.

Sincerely,

Vicky White, Executive Director

Tseshaht First Nation

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