



TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

5091 Tsuma-as Dr. Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8X9
P: 250.724.1225 | F: 250.724.4385 | Tseshaht.com

Warning: The following may be triggering. Please know that support is available. Information on Cultural and Mental Health Supports and other resources are listed at the end of this notice.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alberni Indian Residential School Project to announcement Phase 1 results

(Port Alberni, B.C. – February 13, 2023) **čišaaʔath (Tseshaht) First Nation** will be publicly releasing the Phase 1 findings from research and scanning through the ʔuuʔatumin yaqckʷiimitqin (Doing It for Our Ancestors) project on **February 21, 2023** at 1 p.m. The announcement will be held at the Maht Mahs Gym located at **5000 Mission Road in Port Alberni, BC**, on čišaaʔath territory with limited seating. It will also be livestreamed publicly on the [Tseshaht First Nation Facebook Page](#).

“We know this news can be difficult for all residential school survivors, their loved ones, communities and Canadians. However, this work is essential as we embark on this journey of truth,” said Wahmeesh (Ken Watts), Elected Chief Councillor. “These preliminary findings provide survivors and our Nation with the knowledge and tools needed to continue our important and sacred work. We will never know the exact number of children who did not make it home, however we are committed as a Nation and caretaker community to uncover the truth and honour survivors and children who did not make it home. As we progress through the next phases of our research and scanning, we will continue to do our best to find answers, maintain a cultural and spiritual safe space for Survivors and change the narrative of where this ‘school’ once stood. We never consented for it to be placed on our territory, but we are doing our part to educate the world about what happened at AIRS. There cannot be reconciliation without truth.”

The AIRS project team will host a presentation, rooted in **čišaaʔath** culture, to release the results of the extensive research and scanning that has been conducted over the last 18 months. Health and wellness supports will be on-site and available throughout the day.

Media outlets that wish to attend the announcement must make arrangements and submit their questions in advance with the AIRS media contact below. Interviews will only be held after the announcement.

For the latest information, please visit www.tseshaht.com/airs-team.





TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

5091 Tsuma-as Dr. Port Alberni, BC V9Y 8X9
P: 250.724.1225 | F: 250.724.4385 | Tsésaht.com

About Tsésaht First Nation

číšaaʔath (Tsésaht) First Nation has over 1200 registered members whose ɥaaɥuufi (territory) extends from the Broken Group Islands, including areas in central Barkley Sound, up both sides of the Alberni Inlet and the entire Alberni Valley as well as a large part of the interior of central Vancouver Island. Tsésaht First Nation is one of the 14 member Nations of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council. For more information, please visit www.tsésaht.com.

MEDIA CONTACT:

**Wahmeesh (Ken Watts), Elected Chief Councillor
číšaaʔath (Tsésaht) First Nation**

P: 250-724-1225

C: 250-720-6100

E: kenwatts@tsésaht.com

**TO RSVP, SCHEDULE AN INTERVIEW OR SUBMIT A QUESTION, PLEASE
CONTACT:**

**Nazaneen Lauriault, AIRS Communications Consultant
50th Parallel Public Relations**

C: 250-615-6516

E: naz@50thparallelpr.com

GENERAL INQUIRES:

**Victoria White, Executive Director
číšaaʔath (Tsésaht) First Nation**

P: 250-724-1225

C: 250-667-3859

E: vwhite@tsésaht.com