



TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

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

July 30, 2024

On behalf of Tseshah First Nation ḥawiiḥ (hereditary chiefs), Elected Chief and Council, and Tseshah members we would like to congratulate Tseshah's own Shalaya Valenzuela and her teammates on Team Canada's Senior Women's Rugby 7s on their historic silver medal win today at the 2024 Paris Olympics. We would also like to thank all those who came before us, giving of themselves to represent Tseshah in many different places and ways, proving that we are a resilient peoples and greatness is in us all, not only for ourselves and our community but for those who will be here long after us.

Tseshah is not the only Indigenous Nation in Canada represented at the 2024 Summer Olympics. Justina Di Stasio is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and is competing as a wrestler in the women's 76-kilogram weight class. Apollo Hessa is a member of Kainai Nation in Alberta and is competing as a swimmer. Margo Erlam, Metis is competing as a diver and Fynn McCarthy, also Metis is competing in men's volleyball.

Shalaya Valenzuela just two days ago had this to say on Instagram, "These past few days have been surreal. I'm immensely proud to be part of this incredible team's journey. The work we've put in together on and off the pitch has made me a better athlete and human. I am so grateful for the opportunity to show up each day for all of you." She went on to say, "Being selected as a reserve is tough but when you are part of a special group like this, you can't help but have a team first mindset. It is hard to feel anything but extremely proud of my teammates and what we've accomplished this season- going from 9th place to 4th in the World. I'm honoured to experience this with such a special group." Finishing with, "I would like to say a huge thank you to all my friends, family & teammates for always backing me no matter what."

"Shalaya, you have provided pride and inspiration throughout the entire Tseshah First Nation, Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations and Indigenous youth, women and girls throughout Canada. We are all so excited to celebrate with you once you are back home and available. Tseshah, we look forward to coming together in celebration of this historic achievement and will share more details once we have confirmed a date." said Wahmeesh (Ken Watts) Elected Chief Councillor.

We wish continued success to Shalaya and Team Canada as a whole for the remainder of events in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris and look forward to seeing what is next in these athlete's futures. If you missed today's Gold Medal game, there will be a replay