



# TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

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

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December 1, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## OPEN LETTER FROM TSESHAHT FIRST NATION'S ELECTED CHIEF COUNCILLOR WAHMEESH (KEN WATTS)

To our brothers, sisters and relatives:

On behalf of **čišaaʔath (Tseshaht First Nation)**, I would like to offer our utmost honour, respect and support to Nadleh Whut'en First Nation, Survivors and the families whose children never made it home. The work being done by the **Nadleh Whut'en Residential School Project team** is a sacred responsibility for Survivors and the future of First Nations communities. However, we know the toll it can take on your hearts and minds. We stand with you during this challenging time.

Our Nations are connected through this tragic history. We know many of our Nuu-chah-nulth peoples were sent to and transferred between institutions across the province, regardless of where their families and communities were located. It is through this work that we are able to establish these links and document our history to remember our ancestors and educate future generations.

We are sending our healing and loving prayers to our Nadleh Whut'en brothers, sisters, leadership, staff and all Survivors of these institutions and those who never made it home.

For those impacted by the announcement made yesterday, please know that cultural and mental health support and resources are available. **čišaaʔath (Tseshaht First Nation)** will continue to create a safe space for AIRS Survivors, families and those affected by this news.

Kleco kleco,

**Wahmeesh (Ken Watts), Elected Chief Councilor  
čišaaʔath (Tseshaht First Nation)**



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## **Cultural and Mental Health Supports available:**

Healing and support for local Survivors, Elders, Members and others can reach out to Linda Pelech, Counselling support at 250.730.0547

## **Other mental health support contacts:**

Quu'asa Cultural Support (Nuu-chah-nulth members only)  
250.724.3939

KUU-US Crisis Line Society  
1.800.388.8717  
[www.kuu-uscrisisline.com](http://www.kuu-uscrisisline.com)

Hope For Wellness  
1.855.242.3310

Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line  
1.800.721.0066