

From:
Chief Snuxyaltwa
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November 30, 2009

Statement to:
Bella Coola Band Council
Kathy DesRochers (North Island Central Coast District First Nations)
A & A Trading Ltd. (*alias* Interfor)
Nuxalkmc Hereditary Chiefs
Forests and Range Committee

The Snuxyaltwa Family originates from Talyu (Taleomy Narrows) in South Bentinck (Nuxalkmc Territory). On August 19th, 2009, as part of a traditional Potlatch that lasted several days, the Snuxyaltwa Family raised a totem pole at Talyu, on our South Bentinck land. Nuxalk hereditary chiefs, Nuxalk elders, Nuxalk youth and invited guests from all over the world came to witness this historic event. You were also invited to attend this four-day Potlatch.

On August 19th, we made a major Potlatch statement against logging, mining, industrial fishing, and all other industries that are destroying Mother Earth and our traditional Way of Life. The Snuxyaltwa Family feels that more than enough has been destroyed over the past one hundred years by government and industry and that our land needs healing.

We are profoundly disappointed to learn that the Bella Coola Band Council and A & A Trading Ltd. (*alias* Interfor) are logging on our South Bentinck land. On several occasions I have personally asked all of you to stop logging. During our Potlatch, no hereditary chief stood up to give support to any agreement with the government or with the Bella Coola Band Council.

Honour is a very big word within our traditional ways. We hope that the Nuxalkmc will act honourably and educate our children in these ways.

Sincerely,

Chief Snuxyaltwa (Deric Snow)