

# Nuxalk Nation Government



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## Press Release

1 December 1997

*"First of all; we acknowledge and recognize Tatau, the Creator through Manakays, the Great Spirit for all that is provided for us since the beginning of time and still is today."*

### **Nuxalk Reoccupation of Scw7cwlk Watershed**

#### **Statement from Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas:**

"The reoccupation, asserting and reaffirming of Nuxalk sovereignty protects the rainforests in the mid-coast of British Columbia. Other methods stall the clearcut destruction of the rainforests but only temporarily. Reoccupation is a long term strategy which draws public attention to the destruction of Nuxalk lands. The reoccupation of Scw7cwlk by Suncw (Jesse Oud) and Alecia (his partner) is a courageous action that demands respect and recognition from all peoples. The "Land of the Nuxalk" has been lost for a long time, but a rebirth is happening: the Nuxalk are returning home to their traditional lands. You have our support"

#### **Statement from Head Hereditary Chief Nuximlayc:**

"The Nuxalkmc must recognize and use their "Smayustas" (stories of origin) again. Through our smayustas, we must bring back our family chiefs and names and claim our watersheds that belong to them. We must recognize our homelands where our names come from, and our history originates. When these watersheds are destroyed, our family heritage, and our way of life is destroyed also. I say thanks to Suncw and Alecia for taking that step to protect the Scw7cwlk. Nuxalk life and heritage is a treasure to the world.

We ask all First Nations, and all other supporters to write to the authorities to stop the proposed destruction of the Scw7cwlk which is a unique place of beauty in this world. We ask you to stand strong with us in defense of the Scw7cwlk and Nuxalk Sovereignty."

**For the future of our children, grandchildren and those yet to be born . . .**

**Way!**

**House of Smayusta  
Nuxalk Nation Government  
Q'umk'uts' (Bella Coola)**