



TSESHAHT FIRST NATION

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October 20, 2023

PUBLIC STATEMENT

Tseshah First Nation strives to foster a stable, safe and supportive community by upholding our cultural values and principles. Tseshah has been informed of a local private event scheduled to take place at Char's Landing on October 24, 2023. The event featured a presentation by Ms. Tanya Gaw and her organization Action4Canada; both of which are known to hold very right-wing, racist perspectives. Tseshah Leadership along with many other residents of Port Alberni voiced their concerns with the venue owner. Although we are glad to hear that the event has since been cancelled, we call on our community to stand together in looking at the deeper issues of racism and hate.

Tseshah First Nation Elected Chief and Council, ḥawiiḥ (hereditary chiefs) and community members strongly condemn any actions that promote ideologies rooted in hate and racism; as well as any organizations that hold space to bring forward such divisive and harmful platforms. In a time where the world needs more unity and love, Ms. Gaw and her followers choose racism as seen in her recent tweet on October 12, 2023 (see photo). At the direction of our ḥawiiḥ, Tseshah formally gives notice that Ms. Tanya Gaw and her organization, Action4Canada, are not welcome in Tseshah territory, which includes the entire Alberni Valley.

Tseshah and our allies call upon the City of Port Alberni, local businesses and all those within Port Alberni to take a stand against hatred such as those promoted by Ms. Gaw and Action4Canada.

We are reminded that racism is alive and well across this country, including Port Alberni; but we also know that those whose who embrace such prejudice and discriminatory views are simply the loud minority. We know the majority of our Port Alberni community does not support bigotry of this kind. We call upon our entire community to continue to speak out against hate and racism because if we allow individuals and organizations such as this to practice their "freedom of speech" in this form, it is only going to create more division in this country. We all have a responsibility to create a better future for our children and grandchildren. We encourage everyone to be on the right side of history.

#EndRacismNow

Elected Chief Councillor, Wahmeesh (Ken Watts)
Tseshah First Nation