

Nuxalk Nation Government



Statement to the Press By Hereditary Chief Qwatsinas

**February 12, 2008
Bella Coola, Nuxalk Territory**

ATTENTION: Editor, *Vancouver Sun*

Re: "B.C. announces new logging code for central coast"

By Gordon Hamilton, *Vancouver Sun*

Published: Thursday, February 07, 2008

This letter is in response to the article in the *Vancouver Sun* that ran on February 7th, 2008 with regard to the Great Bear Rainforest deal of April 4th, 2001, approving the "Love-In" under the EBM Plans and Policies.

First of all; I did not like my picture being used in the article and supposedly representing the Nuxalk in the "Love-In" deal. It is misused, misrepresented, and certainly misinterpreted in expressing Nuxalk involvement in these plans.

We want to make it very clear that Nuxalk were not involved in the April 4th, 2001 Great Bear Forest deal and did not participate in its conception. We were not involved in the Central Coast Land and Resource Management Plan (CCLRMP) or Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) planning groups leading to the EBM plans and policies approvals, and certainly did not accept any of their content.

We do not accept 70% logging & development of the Great Bear Rainforest and saving only 30% of it. We certainly would not allow 70% logging or development of Nuxalk ancestral lands and saving only 30% of it. On this basis; we would remove the Nuxalk ancestral lands from the Great Bear Rainforest map. On this basis; we will stop any logging on Nuxalk ancestral lands, we will be forced to make a stand.

Nuxalk ancestral lands and rights remain a "Land and Rights Question," they are still unceded, untreated, and not extinguished today. No other party has the mandate or authority to negotiate on behalf of the Nuxalk; we have never given this consent. These Ecosystem -Based Management plans and policies were done without consulting us. If they are like the Forest Practices Code with a few more frills, then history may repeat itself.