



**Hupacasath First Nation**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

The Hupacasath First Nation joins with other First Nations and peoples in condemning the actions of the RCMP anti terrorism unit in raiding the home of John Rampanen, one of our Nuu-chah-nulth Peoples. We find such an action a violation of John's right to privacy and invasion of the sanctity of his home and family totally unacceptable.

We demand a full investigation into this matter to assess why this incident happened, the manner in which the search occurred, and that action be taken to correct this situation. Also procedures to improve protocol and communications with First Nations need to be developed so these sorts of incidents do not occur again. First Nations have been trying to build relations with the RCMP and this incident does not bode well for the success of that relationship.

This incident confirms the concerns expressed by First Nations when the Federal Government enacted their Anti terrorism legislation which granted greater powers to the RCMP which we knew would be used against First Nations peoples. Our concerns about this legislation were never fully addressed in the law and with this situation increase our apprehension about the use of that law against our people.

We support John Rampanen and his efforts to find answers as why this incident occurred and that the unfairness of this incident be dealt with in a manner satisfactory with John and his family.

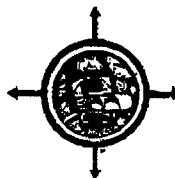
For Further information or questions please contact Chief Councillor Judith Sayers  
At (250) 724-4041 ext 1 or (250) 720-9328.

October 2, 2002

# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

## UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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### OPEN LETTER

Sent via fax (250) 723 0463

Nitanis Desjarlais and John Rampanen  
Port Alberni, BC

October 2, 2002

Dear Nitanis and John:

I would like to thank you both for taking the time to present to the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs' Chiefs Council (UBCIC) meeting of September 25<sup>th</sup>. Your detailed account of the circumstances surrounding the search of your house and the interrogation of yourselves by the RCMP Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET) were not only appalling but also extremely disturbing.

The obvious danger of the anti-terrorism crusade, such as the Anti-Terrorism Act (Bill C-36), is that it may have serious repercussions and consequences for our Indigenous grassroots people who struggle to protect or maintain Indigenous sovereignty, rights and title. Your case confirms our worst fears concerning the high potential for such highly questionable gestapo-style enforcement techniques demonstrated by the RCMP INSET.

It takes little courage to assert the view that we as Indigenous Peoples still enjoy title to our territories and can exercise our rights to use our territories. It takes tremendous courage to defend that view through legitimate protest such as you both have done in the past.

In spite of the combined opposition from the provincial government, the provincial court system, the federal government and the RCMP, it is grassroots people, like the both of you, that will ensure that our grandchildren will not inherit territories empty of trees, fish and wildlife.

I want to ensure you that the UBCIC fully supports your efforts and we sincerely hope that this will not dissuade you both from continuing to defend what we all know to be true. This is our land and our land is our future.

In Solidarity

Chief Stewart Phillip  
President