



Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

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Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Decries the Failure of the Justice System to Martha Martin and her Family

MEDIA RELEASE: November 20, 2020, Port Alberni, BC, Nuu-chah-nulth Territories

Martha Martin received life altering news on June 4th, 2020 when police knocked on her door in the middle of the night to tell her the police shot her daughter Chantel Moore during a wellness check.

A call on Saturday night November 14th from BC delivered even more horrendous news. Martha's son, Mike Martin, 23 years of age, committed suicide in the Surrey pre-trial center. The family is awaiting the results of an internal investigation before deciding whether to make comment.

The fact that a Nuu-chah-nulth mother, could have two children die in less than 6 months dealing with the justice system is unbearable, staggering and appalling.

Through tears, Martha Martin says "the justice system is failing our children!! This is just too hard to go through."

Mike was dealing with the trauma of his older sister Chantel, 26, being fatally shot by police in Edmunston, New Brunswick. The news of his sister's ghastly death disturbed Mike deeply and he has had a hard time dealing with this. Mike looked up to Chantel and family and friends described them as "two peas in a pod". Mike was an advocate for the homeless having been homeless once himself. The family will hold a meal for the homeless in his honor at Roger Creek Park this Saturday and will provide winter clothing and blankets.

Mike had his whole life ahead of him and was looking forward to moving to New Brunswick to live with his mother, father and niece Gracie.

His death was a compounding effect from the shooting of his sister on a wellness check. One horrific injustice imperiled the life of another. The police officer that took Chantel's life inevitably took another.

Martha is reluctant to talk about this but strongly believes "we cannot be silent and let this go by unnoticed. There must be immediate changes to the justice system, we need justice for Chantel and her brother Mike."

Judith Sayers, President of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council said "violence in the justice system has wrought many ills within our First Nation communities. The harsh realities of violence like the shooting of Chantel is not easy to deal with. We need to eradicate the systemic racism in the justice system that will prevent the compounding effects of one tragic event that insidiously touches many lives."

Mariah Charleson, Vice President stated: “We can’t keep these stories silent anymore. Within the span of 6 months, Martha has had to say goodbye to 2 of her children who still had so much life to live. This is another reminder that the justice system in Canada continues to fail First Nations peoples all across this country. We must demand more.”

The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council and all of its members express the deepest, heartfelt sympathies to Martha Martin, her entire family and the Tla-o-qui-aht Nation. We stand in support of Martha, her family and community at this incredibly sad time.

The Martin family is grieving and asks that no questions be asked of them. Martha Martin’s spokesperson Judith Sayers will answer limited questions.

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About Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

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The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council (NTC) provides programs and services to over 10,000 registered members. The role of the NTC is to represent 14 First Nations in three regions stretching 300 kilometers of the Pacific Coast of Vancouver Island from Brooks Peninsula in the north to Point-no-Point in the south. The NTC represents Ahousaht, Ditidaht, Ehattesaht/Chinehkint, Hesquiaht, Hupacasath, Huu-ay-aht, Kyuquot/Checklesah, Mowachaht /Muchalaht, Nuchatlaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, Tseshaht, Uchucklesaht and Ucluelet First Nations and provides a variety of programs and services to them.

For more information, please visit www.nuuchahnulth.org.