



*Ulkatcho First Nation
PO Box 3430, Anahim Lake, BC V0L 1C0
Telephone: 250.302-3740, Ext. 217
Email: chief@ulkatcho.ca*

Ulkatcho First Nation Declare State of Emergency

Posted by Brian Johnson, Operations Manager – October 28, 2021, 10:45 am

News Release

October 28, 2021

Nagwuntl'oo (Anahim Lake, BC)

Ulkatcho First Nation (UFN) Chief and Council convened an emergency meeting this morning and declared a UFN State of Emergency due to the drug, alcohol, and opioid crisis in the UFN community.

UFN have recorded their eighth death in their community from the beginning of this year. The latest October 27, 2021. The UFN members who are passing away in the community are younger and middle-aged members. The health condition of UFN members have been deteriorating over several years due to addictions to drugs and alcohol which has led to vital organ failure in many.

UFN call this state of emergency to the attention of the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), and Ministry of Health – Province of BC (MOH BC).

UFN have historical records of an Indian Residential School located in the community of Nagwuntl'oo (Anahim Lake). The IRS was operated by the Catholic Church and funded by the Federal Government of Canada. Many children suffered physical, emotional, and sexual abuse which caused mental health issues to arise in many families. These mental health issues became intergenerational and continue to cause a dependency on drug, alcohol, and opioids.

<https://collections.irshdc.ubc.ca/index.php/Detail/entities/57>

UFN Chief and Council and UFN Administration have rallied together to create a team which will be led by a Drug, Alcohol and Opioid Crisis Emergency Health Care Team Leader.

UFN recognize there is a shortage of Health and Wellness Centres in the Province of BC to address trauma and will be taking steps to work with the Federal and Provincial Health organizations to set up a Health and Healing Centre in the UFN territory to address health issues because of the impact of IRS and other detrimental assimilation policies of the Federal and Provincial Governments.