

A high-angle, black and white aerial photograph of ocean waves crashing. The waves are dark grey, and their white foam is bright against the darker water. The texture of the foam is intricate, showing the spray and the way it settles on the water's surface. The waves are in constant motion, creating a dynamic and powerful scene.

EDUCATION | ENGAGEMENT | EMPATHY



PR & Communications Narrative Report
Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Project Overview

During the initial media monitoring phase, we were able to successfully identify coverage from over 50 news outlets, spanning local, provincial and national organizations. This broad media reach was a significant achievement, demonstrating the widespread interest and importance of the issues raised during the media conference. The extensive coverage also helped amplify the voices of the affected communities, bringing attention to the critical challenges they face, particularly in light of the toxic drug crisis and its devastating impact on Indigenous communities.

One of the primary goals of the media outreach was to engage government actors in a meaningful way and encourage them to respond to the ongoing crises. This was achieved when we were able to secure a public response from Honourable Murray Rankin, BC's Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation. His statement, which was delivered during the media conference, was a powerful moment of public acknowledgment and support. He shared his deep sorrow regarding the deaths within the Ahousaht First Nation community and the broader implications of the toxic drug crisis. Minister Rankin's response underscored the urgency of the issue, stating:

"I am saddened to hear of the deaths in the Ahousaht First Nation community, and the impacts of the toxic drug crisis that have led to Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council's recent state of emergency for its 14 Nations. Our thoughts are with the family, friends, and all those that are being impacted by these tragedies. I have spoken to Chief Naasathluk at length on what is happening in his community and pledged to help his community in any way possible."

This response was crucial in demonstrating the government's awareness of and commitment to addressing the crisis, especially in communities hardest hit by the ongoing drug epidemic. It also highlighted the collaborative efforts between Indigenous leadership and government representatives to seek solutions to the pressing issues of health, safety and community well-being.



**NUU-CHAH-NULTH
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PR Process

Key Actions

Media Release and Outreach

Following the media advisory, a media release was issued to provide additional details on the conference and the ongoing efforts to address the crisis. Outreach efforts were made to secure interviews and media coverage, including direct follow-ups with reporters and news outlets. The media release helped to drive the narrative and ensure that the message reached the widest possible audience.

Media Conference Management

The media conference itself was carefully managed to ensure smooth logistics, clear communication and meaningful engagement from all participants. Special attention was given to the management of key stakeholders, including government officials, Indigenous leaders and the media, to ensure the conference ran efficiently and that all voices were heard.

Key Messaging

The development of clear and compelling key messaging was essential in framing the issues at the heart of the media conference. This messaging was crafted to resonate with a wide range of audiences, from government officials to the general public, and to create empathy and understanding around the challenges facing Indigenous communities. The messaging also aimed to highlight the urgency of the situation and the need for immediate action to address the toxic drug crisis.

Media List

A comprehensive media list was created to target outlets that could help amplify the message and ensure coverage across various levels of media. This included both Indigenous and mainstream media outlets, ensuring the stories reached diverse audiences and contributed to the broad conversation about the crisis and the response efforts.

Media Advisory

A media advisory was prepared and distributed to all relevant news outlets, providing an overview of the media conference, its objectives and the importance of the issues being discussed. The advisory outlined key details, such as the time, location and speakers, and served as a call to action for media representatives to attend and cover the event.

Reflections

As we continue this work, we are reminded of the need to approach these efforts with openness, listening, humility and teachability. It is critical to maintain an open mind and heart to the voices and needs of marginalized communities, ensuring their experiences are not only heard but respected. Our approach must be one of deep listening, as this is the foundation for building trust and fostering long-term relationships.

This is precedent-setting work, and it can only be successfully carried out if we walk alongside these communities with genuine commitment, free of judgment and bias. We must acknowledge the complexities of the issues at hand and work collaboratively with communities, governments and other stakeholders to seek sustainable solutions. The work we are doing is not just about managing crises; it is about creating spaces for healing, empowerment and positive change for the future.

The road ahead may be challenging, but it is also one filled with opportunities for growth, understanding and impact. By staying true to the values of respect, collaboration and accountability, we can continue to push for meaningful change and progress in the fight against the toxic drug crisis and its devastating effects on Indigenous communities.



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Jackie McKay

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First Nations in B.C. declare state of emergency over opioid crisis and mental health crisis



NUU-CHAH-NULTH TRIBAL COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tribal Council declares a state of emergency as drug use continues to rise and threaten First Nation communities

“We are losing more loved ones. From this day forward, we will do everything in our power to protect our people and our communities. We are declaring a state of emergency to address this crisis and to ensure that our people are safe,” said Jackie McKay, Vice-Chair of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council.

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