



HAISLA NATION COUNCIL

PO Box 1101, Kitamaat Village, BC, V0T 2B0 | (250) 639-9361
Toll Free: 1-888-842-4752 | Fax: 250-632-2840 or 250-632-4794

From: Haisla Nation Elected Chief and Council
Date: April 5, 2024
Subject: Letter of Support

An incident involving a local business, a young boy and his family from our community was recently brought to our attention. We express disappointment along with our membership about what was shared. This has sparked conversations within the community, highlighting an important teachable moment regarding boys wearing braids. In many Indigenous cultures, long hair is a significant part of our identity, symbolizing pride, and resilience as it was forbidden for many of our ancestors to wear their hair long.

The Haisla Nation stands in support of the family and their young Brave who embraces his braided long hair with pride. Amid potential division in the community, we urge individuals to come together to understand the true essence of boys with braids and foster constructive dialogues that promote unity.

There are resources available, such as the documentary "Braves Wear Braids," filmed in the foothills of Treaty 7 on Tsuut'ina Nation land southwest of Calgary, Alberta. It was created to be used as a learning tool in schools and cultural sensitivity training in the workplace. We also encourage the establishment staff to engage in the Haisla Saksiwa and Blanket exercise, taking the initial steps to acknowledge the past, understand the present, and strive for a future of respectful interaction with our community.

We all take pride in ourselves, our families, and our community. Let's keep working towards better understanding and unity among us.

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