



# Tseshah First Nation

February 7, 2014

Manager  
Alberni Toyota  
2555 Port Alberni Highway  
Port Alberni, B.C.  
V9Y 8P2

Dear Sir:

**Re: Hupacasath Sign**

It appears to the Tseshah that the Alberni Toyota outlet has a sign on the Old Island Highway side of your property which creates the impression that the Hupacasath are the traditional owners of the Alberni Valley. The Tseshah take exception to this.

The Tseshah have never signed a treaty with The Crown. We continue to enjoy and exercise our aboriginal title and rights over our traditional territories. The Tseshah traditional territories, to which we hold aboriginal title, include, *among others*, the Alberni Valley and surrounding areas. We have filed a claim with the Federal and Provincial Governments and that claim has been accepted for negotiation.

By erecting the sign on your property, you are clearly supporting the position of the Hupacasath. The Tseshah object to this and regret the position you have taken. We call for the sign to be taken down immediately.

The more than 1,100 members of the Tseshah have overwhelmingly supported the businesses of the Alberni Valley over the years. We regret that you have chosen to imperil the relationship between the Tseshah people and Alberni Toyota. The less than 300 members of the Hupacasath have made a claim that we view as false and misguided.

Our First Nation will hold a regular monthly meeting on February 17 and consider our relationship with

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Alberni Toyota at that time.

Yours truly,

**Tseshah First Nation**

Per:

Hugh Braker,  
Chief Councillor

c.c. Council, Tseshah Bulletin