



MUSQUEAM INDIAN BAND

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May 9, 2012

To Musqueam Community Members,

Re. Demonstration to stop the destruction of the ancient Musqueam village and burials at čəsnaʔəm
12:30PM – Thursday, May 10, 2012 – Legislature Grounds, Victoria, BC

This letter is a call to action as we work to prevent the ongoing destruction of čəsnaʔəm (commonly known as the Marpole Midden), an ancient Musqueam Village site, and the resting place of many of our ancestors. We have always known about this site, its importance to our community, and the ancestors who rest there. Recent construction has unearthed the remains of the burials of one adult and two infants in the last five months. We want to update you on the situation at čəsnaʔəm, and request your support for a demonstration at the Legislature tomorrow.

On May 3, 2012, over 100 Musqueam and supporters marched to čəsnaʔəm to demonstrate commitment to the appropriate, respectful care of our ancestors and to demand action. Musqueam has had a proposal on the table since late February to preserve the site as an interpretive centre and park. We have offered to fund the majority of this initiative, yet the provincial government has yet to respond to our offer. We applaud the City of Vancouver for their ongoing co-operation, the developer for their continued engagement, and the BC Government for the recent appointment of a facilitator. Discussions have been moving slowly, though, and the developer has warned that he will continue work on the site if a resolution is not soon found. This Thursday, the provincial NDP will raise this issue in the BC Legislature. Musqueam has arranged for two buses to take Musqueam community members to Victoria to march at the Legislature. Please see the information, below, and consider joining us on this vital and historic journey.

WHAT: Demonstration to stop the destruction of the ancient Musqueam village and burials at čəsnaʔəm

- All costs for the day will be covered (so you **MUST** register – please see below)
- Bring drums, paddles, regalia, cedar hats to increase Musqueam presence at the site

WHEN: Thursday, May 10, 2012

7:15 AM – Gather at Musqueam Cultural Centre
7:30 AM – Buses leave for Victoria
12:30 PM – Demonstration at Legislative Grounds
1:30 PM – Issue raised in the Assembly
Evening – Arrive back at Musqueam

WHERE: Legislative Grounds, Victoria, BC

HOW: YOU MUST REGISTER TO JOIN US

Contact Krista Point **ASAP** at
(604) 263-3261 or (778) 996-5609
johnna@musqueam.bc.ca

***If you are unable to join us in Vancouver, please consider showing your support
at the construction site at čəsnaʔəm (SW Marine Drive at Hudson)***

hay čxʷ qə

Chief Ernest C. Campbell