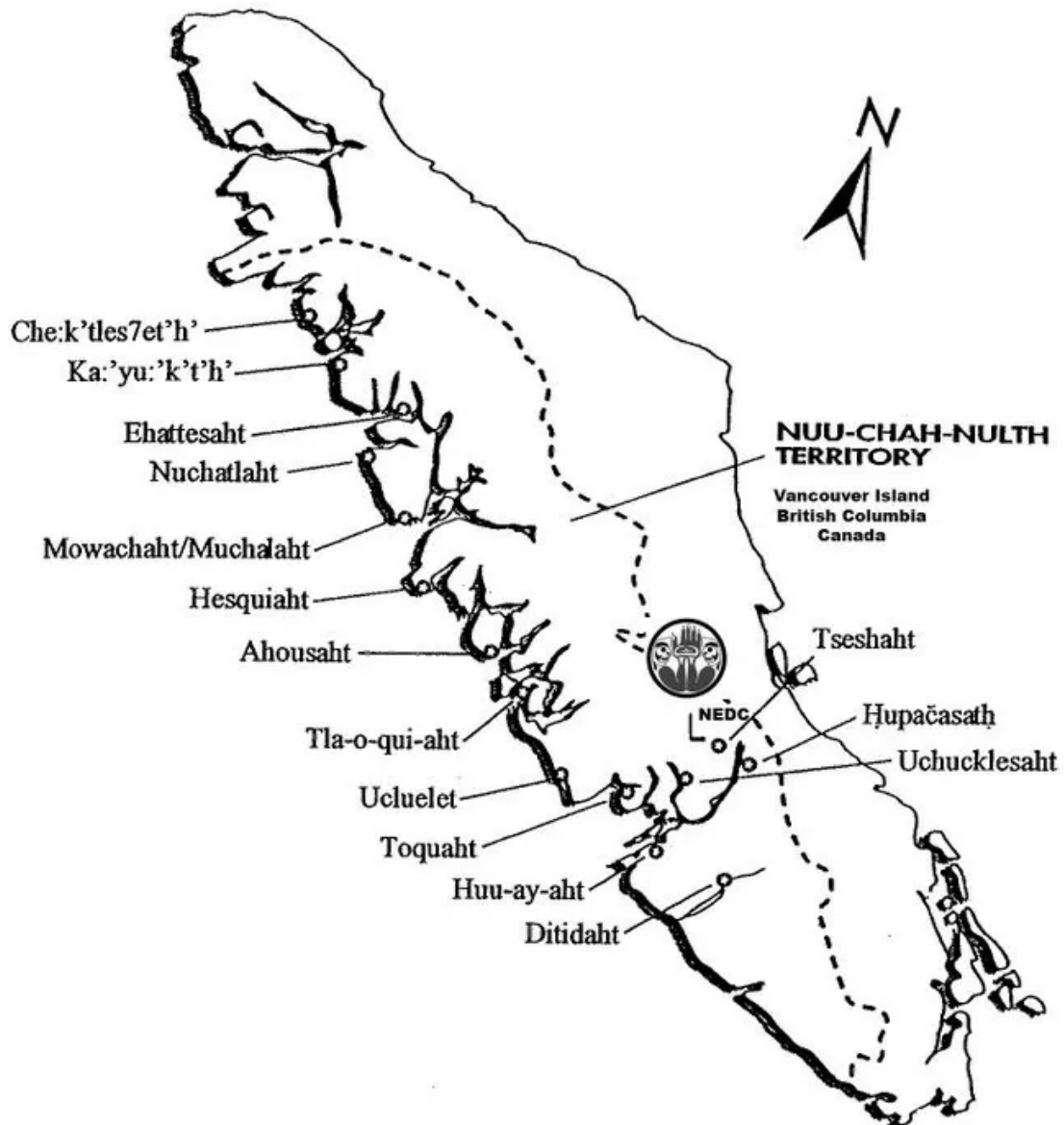


# NUU- CHAH- NULTH



[NUU-CHAH-NULTH TRIBAL COUNCIL WEBSITE](#)

[PROTOCOLS AND PRINCIPLES FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN A NUU-CHAH-NULTH CONTEXT](#)



# NUU- CHAH- NULTH



## **COMMUNITY BACKGROUND**

The Nuuchah-Nulth First Nations, with traditional territory in the western region of Vancouver Island, are comprised in 14 communities across three regions: the southern region, which hosts Ditidaht, Huu-ay-aht, Hupacasath, Tse-shaht, and Uchucklesaht; the central region, including Ahousaht, Hesquiaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht, and Yuu-cluth-aht; and the northern region, including Ehattesaht, Kyuquot/Cheklesah, Mowachaht/Muchalaht, and Nuchatlaht (Nuuchah-Nulth Tribal Council, n.d.). The Nuuchah-Nulth First Nations have a rich cultural history and ongoing practices, including strong local governance, language, art, and spiritual customs (Nuuchah-Nulth Tribal Council, n.d.).

The Nuuchah-Nulth First Nations provide a strong example of community-based ethics protocols and practices for researching involving their communities, highlighting the inherent rights of the Nuuchah-Nulth Ha'wiih to carry full authority and responsibility to govern the traditional laws and teachings of their people.

## **NUUCHAH-NULTH TRIBAL COUNCIL RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE**

In August 2008, the Nuuchah-Nulth Tribal Council instated the Nuuchah-Nulth Tribal Council Ethics Committee. The rationale behind the creation of this ethics committee are multifold, and reflect the following rights of the community:

That researchers are collectors of information that can be constructed to produce meaning, either for or against Indigenous interests;

That the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council recognized its responsibility to enforce a protocol for such research to take place in their communities;

That the Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Research Ethics Committee will act to approve any proposed research with more than one Nuuchah-Nulth community according to established protocols; and

That the protocol is developed to assist researchers in meeting appropriate protocols, and that research is done in an ethical manner (Nuuchah-nulth Tribal Council Research Ethics Committee, 2008).

The Ethics Committee is guided by the Protocols and Principles for Conducting Research in a Nuu-Chah-Nullth Context document. This document opens with the Declaration by the Ha-wiith of the Nuu-chah-Nulth Nation in November of 1994, which describes the inherent right that the Nuu-chah-nulth have over ownership, authority, and responsibility to “manage and control all that is contained within each of our Ha-houlthee (Nuu-chah- nulth Tribal Council Research Ethics Committee, 2008). The importance of this declaration within the context of knowledge and research is significant, as it reminds us that “authority and ownership have never been extinguished,” applying to both the land, resources, and all traditional knowledge and practices held by the Nuu-Chah-Nulth peoples.

The protocols and principles set forth by the Nuu-Chah-Nulth ethics committee range from guiding principles on research partnerships and the standards for participation of community members in the research process, to guidelines for researchers to understand and adhere to community protocols. Importantly, the guiding document put forth by the ethics committee outlines the importance of understanding the protocols and desired processes of each individual community in the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nation, highlighting how crucial it is for researchers to be reflexive, adaptive, and to focus on community partnerships for each project. Additionally, the guiding document highlights protocols for establishing respect for persons, autonomy, protection, and beneficence for Nuu-Chah-Nulth Nation and communities - all crucial components of conducting safe and ethical research with Indigenous communities (Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Research Ethics Committee, 2008).



### **Resources:**

About NTC | Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council. (n.d.). Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council. Retrieved from <https://nuuchahnulth.org/about-ntc>

Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Research Ethics Committee. (2008). Protocols and Principles for Conducting Research in a Nuu-Chah-Nulth Context.