

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 28th, 2009

Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

SUPPORT OPPOSITION OF PASSPORT REQUIRMENTS EVENT

The Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (SNTC) supports the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) in their show of opposition against newly imposed requirements by the government of the United States which stipulates that all travelers entering or leaving the country must carry a valid passport, including those of Aboriginal descent.

This legislation breaches the rights of Aboriginal people across Canada who are legally entitled to enter the United States for purposes of employment, study, investment, retirement and/or immigration as outlined in provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The freedom to travel across the US/Canada border for Aboriginal people is a fundamental right outlined and preserved by the Jay Treaty and the INA.

Prior to the establishment of the US/Canada border Aboriginal people knew no borders, and despite the institution Aboriginal people continue to share bloodlines south of the border, as well as territory to which we have an indisputable right to use.

The Secwepemc and Okanagan nations share deeply rooted bloodlines, and celebrate their familial relations and alliance through the Okanagan Shuswap Confederacy which has been in existence for over 100 years.

The SNTC would like encourage all members of the Secwepemc nation to show support for the opposition of the new passport requirements by attending the ONA opposition event scheduled Monday, June 1st, 2009, 12:00 pm at Chopaka, Lower Similkameen Indian Band, in Cawston, BC.

Guest speakers include Chief Joseph Dennis of Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Grand Chief Steward Phillip, chairman of the ONA, Jeanne Jerred, chair of the Colville Business Council, and John Stensgar of the Colville Confederated Tribes Business Council.

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For More Information:
Chief Wayne Christian
SNTC Tribal Spokesperson
T: 250-838-6496 or 250-828-9789