



RAVEN

Photo by April Bencze

STEP UP FOR COAST HEROES

Heiltsuk Nation is taking Kirby — a shipping company — Canada, and British Columbia to court. The case focuses on damages from the catastrophic Nathan E. Stewart spill that spilled toxic fuels into Heiltsuk's marine harvesting areas.

**SUPPORT HEILTSUK NATION AS THEY BRING THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT
THEIR TERRITORY AND THE OCEAN BACK HOME**



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In October 2016, a tug without a certified pilot ran aground and spilled over 110,000 liters of fuels, including diesel, in Heiltsuk waters on the central coast of British Columbia. The tug and attached barge were carrying fuels through Heiltsuk waters despite Heiltsuk's prohibition of oil transport through their marine harvesting areas. Through inadequate government and corporate response, and despite Heiltsuk responders' heroic efforts to mitigate the damage, the spill contaminated key shellfish harvesting areas and critical habitat for the Northern abalone. The Heiltsuk suffered a violent disruption to their way of life, their economy, their history and identity, and their spiritual connection to the land. A win for the Heiltsuk could toughen oil spill regulations from coast to coast to coast across Canada and set a precedent for Aboriginal title to the foreshore and seabed. It would strengthen Heiltsuk jurisdiction in the courts so they can manage their territory according to Heiltsuk laws.

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