

For Immediate Release:  
January 13, 2014

**Press statement by the families of Robert F. Luggi Jr and Carl Charlie  
re: Crown decision not to proceed with charges in Burns Lake mill explosion**

Wet'suwet'en Territory (Burns Lake, BC) - The families of Robert F. Luggi Jr. and Carl Charlie, the two men who perished in the deadly January 2012 Babine Forest Products Mill explosion, are very disappointed with the decision by BC Crown Counsel not to file charges against Babine Forest Products and the parent company, Hampton Affiliates of Portland, Oregon following their investigation stemming from the January 2012 Babine Forest Products Mill explosion in Burns Lake, BC.

The families waited 2 years to understand the cause surrounding the explosion at the sawmill which caused the death of their loved ones. "We did not have access to the findings of the Worksafe BC investigation report, as the families were advised that it was under review by the Attorney-General's office" said Maureen Luggi, the wife of Robert F. Luggi Jr. To date, the families still have no understanding as to the cause of the explosion and accountability and justice has not been accomplished.

"Our lives were shattered that night and we suffered immeasurable loss on January 20, 2012", stated Lucy Campbell, spokesperson on behalf of the Charlie family. Carl Charlie had 3 children, his parents, siblings and many relatives. Robert F. Luggi Jr. left 3 children, a spouse Maureen, his parents, as well as siblings and relatives. All have endured pain, suffering and emotional distress with having had to adjust to life without these two wonderful men. The Luggi and Charlie families' lives have been forever altered.

Our families have observed Babine Forest Products rebuilding the sawmill and have supported these efforts; it has been a blow to our families, that our desire for justice has been denied through the British Columbia Courts. It was critical to our families that any negligence be uncovered and someone is held accountable for the deaths of Robert F. Luggi Jr. and Carl Charlie. We also acknowledge the critical injuries suffered by the other 20 employees that night of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Survivors and their families as they continue to rebuild their lives.

"The families need answers on what happened in the mill explosion, they need to be provided with all of the pertinent documents", said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit Political Executive. "Crown Counsel indicated that proceeding with charges would not have been sustainable due to flaws in the investigation. Given the extraordinary circumstances of the of this tragedy and the gravity of the impacts, we would like to know why didn't the Crown or WorkSafe BC consider these procedural issues before or at the inception of the investigation?"

"We are in complete support of the Luggi and Charlie families as they continue to pursue all of the facts regarding the circumstances that lead to this tragic and horrific accident", stated Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. "We will continue to stand with the families as they seek closure".

The families have been invited to meet with Worksafe BC this week & will be presented a copy of the Worksafe BC Report. The families may consult legal counsel about the report and the Crown Counsel decision. In the meantime, they must carry on with their lives and work towards recovering from the grief and healing with the community.

We will continue to move forward and heal from this tragedy, the magnitude of which has impacted the entire community of Burns Lake as well as the communities of Stelat'en First Nation, Wet'suwet'en First Nation and Lake Babine Nation. Despite this, we realize that we can't turn back the clock - this cannot be undone. We must get on with our lives and live our lives in such a way that will bring honour to the memories of Carl and Robert.

The families also wish to convey that they will also be celebrating the memory of our loved ones on Monday, January 20, 2014 at the Wet'suwet'en First Nation NEW Community Hall at 12:00 pm, with a Memorial Mass officiated by Father Tom of the Immaculata Parish and they invite the BFP Employees and the General Public to join them. This memorial mass and luncheon will serve as the 2<sup>nd</sup> year anniversary of this tragedy. We will always remember Robert F. Luggi Jr. and Carl Charlie - they will be forever in our hearts.

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