



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit lauds mining CEO for “telling it like it is”

Coast Salish Territory/West Vancouver – The First Nations Summit is welcoming the comments from Northgate Minerals CEO, Ken Stowe, as reported in The Globe and Mail yesterday, which he offered in the wake of an environmental review panel’s historic recommendation to reject the company’s Kemess North application, as proposed in the un-ceded traditional territory of the Takla, Kwadacha, and Tsay Keh Dene, known as the Tse Keh Nay.

“Mr. Stowe hit the nail on the head. He has rightly cautioned major developers and their investors that First Nations need to agree with the merits of their projects,” said Grand Chief Edward John, member of the First Nations Summit’s political executive. “Otherwise, as Mr. Stowe himself said, ‘don’t waste your time’,” added John.

“The Kemess North project was never intended to be, as Mr. Stowe characterized it, ‘sacrificed on the altar’ of unresolved land claims,” said Dave Porter, member of the First Nations Summit’s political executive. “But, as fate would have it, that’s what happened. Clearly, project developers will have to re-assess their plans in light of the review panel’s monumental decision to define a new paradigm in this province,” added Porter.

“We welcome Mr. Stowe’s honest assessment of the situation and for telling it like it is. We however caution him and others not to think that the reconciliation of the land question will somehow allow or sanction unsustainable mining or other developments that are adverse to First Nations, for example, the Kemess North

project," said Chief Judith Sayers, member of the First Nations Summit's political executive.

The First Nations Summit Chiefs will be considering a resolution Friday, September 28, calling upon the federal and provincial governments to implement the Kemess North Joint Review Panel's major recommendation to halt the project, including calling upon government and the mining industry to collaborate with First Nations in order to establish sustainable exploration and mining approaches on First Nations' traditional territories.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in the treaty negotiation process in British Columbia. Background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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