



News Release **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 14, 2010

First Nations Call on BC to Work with First Nations to undertake major mining legislative and policy reforms

Coast Salish Territory/ Vancouver – In an open letter and joint statement (attached) to Premier Gordon Campbell, First Nations leaders are strongly urging the BC government to heed the conclusions contained in the recently released report by the Harvard Law School’s International Human Rights Clinic titled, “Bearing the Burden: The Effects of Mining on First Nations in British Columbia”.

First Nations Leaders are calling on BC to work with First Nations on an urgent and priority basis to undertake major mining legislative and policy reform for consistency with case law in Canada, international instruments such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the commitments made under the New Relationship and Transformative Change Accord.

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For further information please contact:

Grand Chief Edward John (edjohnr@fns.bc.ca)
Political Executive, First Nations Summit 778-772-8218

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip (president@ubcic.bc.ca)
President, Union of BC Indian Chiefs 250-490-5314

Nicole Hetu (nicole.hetu@bcfn.ca)
Advisor, BC Assembly of First Nations 604-922-7733

For Chief Dolly Abraham:
Contact Dave Radies, Takla Lake Mining Coordinator at 604-921-2024 or 250-961-1614

Anne Marie Sam,
FNWARM Chair 250-996-7171.

Terry Teegee, (tteegee@cstc.bc.ca)
Vice Tribal Chief, CSTC 250-562-6279



June 10, 2010

Hon. Premier Campbell
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Honourable Premier,

As you are aware, on June 7, 2010, the Harvard Law School 's International Human Rights Clinic released a report titled, "Bearing the Burden: The Effects of Mining on First Nations in British Columbia".

This important report reflects the serious concerns of First Nations from across BC with respect to the mining industry. A number of First Nations have endorsed the enclosed "Joint Statement from Participating Nations Regarding the Effects of Mining on First Nations in British Columbia".

We strongly urge you to heed the conclusions of this important report and the recommendations contained in the enclosed Joint Statement. We call on you to work with First Nations on an urgent and priority basis to undertake major mining legislative and policy reform for consistency with case law in Canada, international instruments such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the commitments we've made under the New Relationship and Transformative Change Accord.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the BC ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS:

Regional Chief Jody Wilson-Raybould

On behalf of the FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT:



Grand Chief Edward John



Chief Douglas White III Kwulasultun

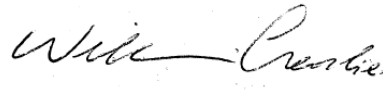


Dan Smith

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip



Chief William Charlie



Chief Robert Chamberlin

On behalf of the TAKLA LAKE FIRST NATION



Chief Dolly Abraham

On behalf of the CARRIER SEKANI TRIBAL COUNCIL



Terry Teegee

On behalf of FIRST NATIONS WOMEN ADVOCATING RESPONSIBLE MINING



Chief Dolly Abraham

Encl.

cc. Hon. Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines
Hon. George Abbott, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Joint Statement from Participating Nations Regarding the Effects of Mining on First Nations in British Columbia

June 8, 2010

WHEREAS, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that Indigenous Peoples have the right to free, prior and informed consent before projects, such as mining or exploration, occur.

WHEREAS, Canada is party to international human rights and environmental treaties that recognize the unique connection between indigenous peoples and the land.

WHEREAS First Nations have the right to self-determination, which includes the right to decide how our traditional lands and resources are used.

WHEREAS First Nations have a right to practice our culture which requires the use of our traditional lands.

WHEREAS, Aboriginal Title and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights continue to exist in British Columbia.

WHEREAS, the First Nations of British Columbia never surrendered jurisdiction over our lands and resources.

WHEREAS, Aboriginal title has an inescapable economic component that includes the right to benefit from projects if they are deemed environmentally responsible by the impacted First Nation.

WHEREAS the 2005 New Relationship statement agrees to establish processes and institutions for shared decision-making about the land and resources and for revenue and benefit sharing. It agrees to a new government-to-government relationship based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights.

WHEREAS, the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program released a report on June 7th, 2010 titled, *Bearing the Burden, the Effects of Mining on First Nations in British Columbia*. This report focused on the impacts of mining on the Takla Lake First Nation in north-central British Columbia and the concerns raised on past, present, and future projects.

WHEREAS the Crown continues to state the BC environmental assessment process is consistent with case law as it relates to consultation with First Nations. First Nations strongly disagree with the Crown's position.

We, the assembled nations from across British Columbia speak with one voice to say:

1. We call upon the BC government to amend the antiquated mining laws, including on-line staking, and include First Nations at the decision-making table and to ensure the laws are changed to benefit First Nations.
2. We call upon the Crown to jointly develop a new environmental assessment review process with First Nations.
3. We call upon the Crown to ban the use of fish-bearing lakes for use as tailings impoundments and to clean up past damages from the hundreds of abandoned mines in British Columbia. The federal 'no net loss policy' to compensate for the loss of fish and create new habitat is not an acceptable solution.
4. We call upon the Premier and Cabinet to immediately engage in a discussion with First Nations leaders to work out a solution to incorporate our recommendations, including joint land-use planning to set out where mining can and cannot take place in each First Nation's Territory.
5. We call upon the industry to engage in good faith negotiations at the earliest stages of exploration. If mines are already in place then impact benefits agreements must be immediately negotiated.

Signed at Chief Joe Mathias Centre, Coast Salish Territory.




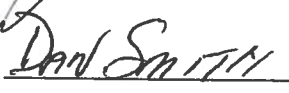
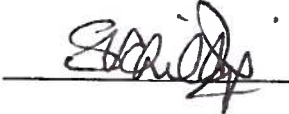



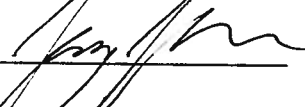
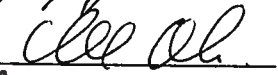


Joint Statement from Participating Nations Regarding the effects of mining on First Nations in British Columbia

June 8, 2010

Name	Signature	First Nation
<u>JOHN D. WARD</u>	<u></u>	<u>TAKU RIVER TRINGIT</u>
<u>Henry Chipp</u>	<u></u>	<u>Becher Bay 15th Nations</u>
<u>J. Shivers</u>	<u></u>	<u>T'SOU-UK</u>
<u>Earl Jack</u>	<u></u>	<u>Penelakut</u>
<u>Tyler George</u>	<u> Chief</u>	<u>Halalt FN</u>
<u>Cyril Livingston</u>	<u></u>	<u>Kit'anoan FN.</u>
<u>RICHARD THOMAS</u>	<u></u>	<u>Esquaham FN</u>
<u>Albie Charlie</u>	<u></u>	<u>Cowichan Tribes</u>
<u>Mlanda Campbell</u>	<u></u>	<u>Tzeachten.</u>
<u>JOE HALL</u>	<u></u>	<u>Tzeachten.</u>
<u>CHARLIE COOTES</u>	<u></u>	<u>UCHUCKLESANT</u>
<u>Shaunce Casavant</u>	<u></u>	<u>Hupacasath</u>


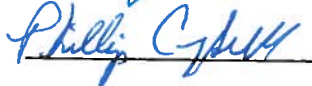

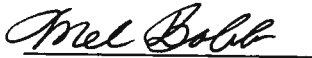
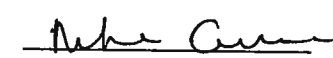

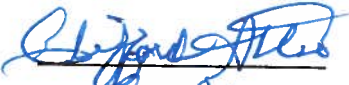




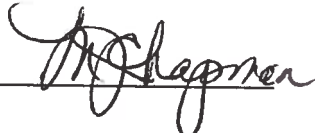
**Joint Statement from Participating Nations
Regarding the effects of mining on First Nations in British Columbia**

June 8, 2010

Name	Signature	First Nation
Chief Dolly Abraham		Takla Lake First Nation
CHIEF JOHN M SMITH		TLOWITSIS First Nations Summit Trenton Nation
Grand Chief Effiah		
Alan Smith GRAND CHIEF		First Nations Summit PRESIDENT
STEWART PHILLIP		Union of BC Indian Chiefs
CHIEF JONATHAN KWAKWAS		PENTICTON INDIAN BAND
Councilor Dan Gravelle		Tobacco Plains Band
CHIEF FRED ROBBINS		Eskeetmc.
Jay Johnson		OKANAGAN NATION
Chief Clifford		Ts'kw'aylaxw
Chief Ronald		Chamath (STC)
Chief Tom Nelson		Quatins First Nation




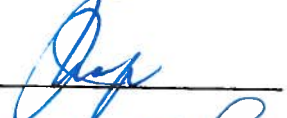

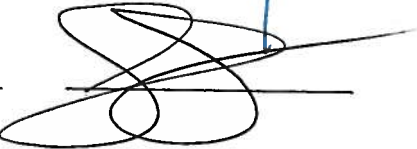
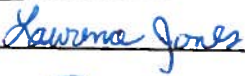
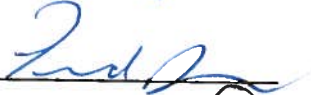
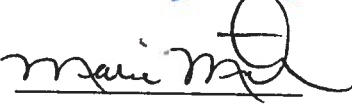
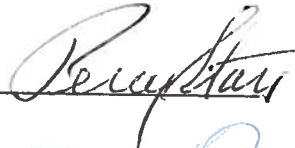


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Regarding the effects of mining on First Nations in British Columbia**

June 8, 2010

Name	Signature	First Nation
FRED SAMARON		Siska Indian Band
Phillip Campbell		Boothrad Band
Allen Louse		Ukatcho
MEZ BOBB		Suzzon F.N.
MIKE ARCHIE		Camen Lake
Robert Leech		T'it'et Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council
CLIFFORD ATLED		Weikinuxv
Frank Johnson		Moucetaw/Stellaguo
A Williams		TAHLTAN NATION
A Colli ← → Colleen COLLINS		Da'naxda'xw Nation
Fred Blendale		Skawahlook
Maureen Chapman		



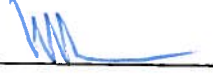


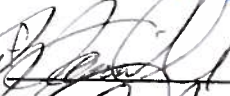


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June 8, 2010

Name	Signature	First Nation
<u>Les Sam</u>		<u>Tseshah</u>
	<u>Percival Starr</u>	<u>Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council</u>
<u>Willard Gallic</u>		<u>TSESHAHT</u>
<u>Jack Thompson</u>		<u>Dziidah.</u>
<u>Robert Mills</u>		<u>Skidegate, Haida Gwaii</u>
<u>John T Jones</u>		<u>Old Massett, Haida Gwaii</u>
<u>Lawrence Jones</u>		<u>Council of Haida Nation</u>
<u>Fred Sam</u>		<u>Nak'azdli</u>
<u>Maria Martin</u>		<u>Heiltsuk</u>
<u>PERCY STARR</u>		<u>Kitasoo</u>
<u>Timothy Lees</u>		<u>GUXAGLA NATION</u>
<u>PETER LEESEN</u>		<u>Nisga'a</u>

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Regarding the effects of mining on First Nations in British Columbia**

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Name	Signature	First Nation
<u>Brent W. Adams</u>		<u>Nisga'a Nation</u>
<u>CHIEF CHERYL CASIMIR</u>		<u>KTUNAKA NATION</u>
<u>Mary Basil</u>	<u>M Basil</u>	<u>Ktunaxa Nation</u>
<u>Chief Bill Cranmer</u>		<u>Namgis</u>
<u>RUPERT WILSON</u>	<u>Rupert Wilson</u>	<u>Kwakwaka'wakw Nation</u>
<u>ROD MAIKAMKIM</u>		<u>LAKIN-KWIL-TACH TREATY SOCIETY</u>
<u>ROBERT POLLARI</u>		<u>CAMPBELL RIVER FCN</u>
<u>VERN MICHEL</u>	<u>Vern Michel</u>	<u>Williams Lake Band</u>
<u>Marilyn Campbell</u>		<u>Canoe Creek Band</u>
<u>PAUL LOUIE</u>		<u>Wheo Lake Indian Band</u>
<u>LENE JOHNSON</u>		<u>Esketeme</u>
<u>Dean Harris</u>	<u>Dean Harris</u>	<u>Stu'aminus</u>

