



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations Summit challenges Northgate CEO's comments on First Nations political representation

Coast Salish Traditional Territory/West Vancouver - The First Nations Summit strongly rejects comments made by Northgate Minerals CEO, Ken Stowe, who suggested last week at the Denver Gold Forum, shortly after the company's Kemess North mine was soundly rejected by an environmental review panel, that the Tse Keh Nay and Gitksan leadership are unrepresentative of their community views on the failed project.

"The people that are most impacted probably have had the least public say," said Stowe in Denver last week, in reference to First Nations community members. "You've heard the least from them.

"You've heard more from the political arms of the First Nations, who are very outspoken," said Stowe.

"In this case, it is nonsense for Mr. Stowe to suggest that the First Nations leadership have not properly represented the views of their communities," said Grand Chief Edward John, a member of the First Nations Summit's political executive.

"He's done himself and the mining industry disfavoured by insulting the local First Nations leadership, by suggesting they do not represent their communities on this particular matter," added John.

"Mr. Stowe has known for years the feelings of the communities regarding the destruction of Amazay Lake. And so now the panel's report has been received favourably by the communities," concluded John.

After a lengthy review, a joint federal-provincial environmental assessment review panel acknowledged that Northgate Mineral's proposed Kemess North mine would have "key adverse effects" that would include:

the loss of a natural lake with important spiritual values for Aboriginal people, and the creation of a long-term legacy of environmental management obligations at the minesite to protect downstream water quality and public safety. These obligations may continue for several thousand years, and include ongoing treatment of poor quality water from the open pit (the "North Pit"), and regular monitoring and maintenance of the waste disposal impoundment (the "Duncan Impoundment") and its three dams, to preserve the desired

water balance and water chemistry in the Impoundment and to ensure the health of its aquatic ecosystem.

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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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