



Taku River Tlingit
First Nation



FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Carrier Sekani
Tribal Council

NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations mining summit set for October in Prince George

Dakelh Traditional Territory/Prince George, B.C. - The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Kaska Tribal Council, Taku River Tlingit First Nation, and the BC First Nations Leadership Council officially announced they will be co-hosting a political summit on mining issues on October 7-9, 2008, in Prince George.

The primary goal of the meeting is to gather First Nations leadership from across B.C. to establish common principles and standards for exploration and mine development that First Nations can then use to gauge activities of the mining sector and government.

The *BC First Nations Mining Summit* will focus on:

- Exploring necessary legislative, regulatory, and policy reforms to ensure adequate consultation and accommodation prior to mining exploration and development.
- Reducing impacts of exploration and development on cultural and ecological values, other land uses, and community priorities.
- Expanding opportunities for benefit-sharing with affected First Nations through building relationships with the Crown and industry.

"I expect the summit to result in a First Nations-driven action plan that deals squarely with the issues presented by the mining sector, one that clearly establishes a set of principles and standards on exploration and mining," David Luggi, Tribal Chief of the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, said.

"Our communities are put under a great deal of pressure due to widespread mineral exploration and mining development. I know other First Nations are in the same boat", Hammond Dick, Tribal Chief of the Kaska Tribal Council, said.

"It's exciting to see local and territorial First Nations leaders launch this constructive initiative to address the mining sector. This mining summit and the action steps will be based on the recognition of our Aboriginal title and rights and will support First Nations empowerment," Shawn Atleo, Regional Chief of the B.C. Assembly of First Nations and member of the BC First Nations Leadership Council, said.

The mining summit has been officially endorsed by the Chiefs of the First Nations Summit, Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs, and B.C. Assembly of First Nations, who together comprise the member organizations of the First Nations Leadership Council.

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For more information see the following website: www.bcfnms.ca