



# FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT URGES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO HEED REPORTS AND REJECT TASEKO LTD.'s PROSPERITY MINE PROPOSAL**

**Coast Salish Territory (Vancouver, BC)** – The First Nations Summit is urging the federal government to immediately reject Taseko Mining LTD.'s Prosperity Mine Proposal as a result of the findings contained in a federal environmental review panel report confirming the potential for devastating cultural environmental impacts which could result from the proposed mine.

"The environmental review panel has clearly indicated there would be 'significant adverse environmental effects' as a **direct** result of the proposed Prosperity Mine. We urge the federal government to immediately reject Taseko's Prosperity Mine proposal", said Chief Doug White of the First Nations Summit political executive.

The Federal Review Panel extensively reviewed Taseko Mines Limited's proposed \$800 million Prosperity gold-copper mine at Teztan Biny (Fish Lake), near Williams Lake BC. The proposal would entail draining the lake to store waste tailings from the copper and gold processing operations and replacing the lake with an artificial one (Fish Lake is currently habitat to 90,000 rainbow trout and the artificial one would support 20,000 trout). The panel's findings are similar to those that ultimately led to the rejection of the Northgate Mineral's Kemess North proposal in 2007.

"The Environmental Review Panel has done their job and has raised numerous red flags in their report by indicating the Prosperity Mine project would result in 'significant adverse environmental effects' on fish habitat, grizzly bears, navigation, First Nations traditional land use, First Nations cultural heritage and certain potential or established Aboriginal Rights or Title'. Government and industry cannot ignore the Tsilhqot'in people's Title and Rights and the importance of protecting and preserving the valuable natural resource within their traditional territory", said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit political executive.

"Natural habitats such as Teztan Biny are an integral part of First Nations culture in this province and we will stand together to fight any government policy or industry initiative which would allow a natural lake to be destroyed for nothing more than the financial gain of a few shareholders", added Chief John.

"We must not stand by as Canada, as a matter of public policy, allows that lakes and waterways be destroyed for waste rock and effluent disposal sites simply in the name of development and because it is the most cost effective route. This federal government policy of "no net loss", which sets First Nations interests against the "public interests" and where the major impact and burden is placed on First Nations, must be reviewed", said Dan Smith of the FNS political executive.

The First Nations Summit fully supports the recent independent review of mining laws in B.C. and Canada by the Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic titled *Bearing the Burden: the Effects of Mining on First Nations in British Columbia*. The Harvard study concluded current mining laws are in contravention of international and constitutional laws, stacked against First Nations, favour industry and lack any consideration of shared decision-making, revenue-sharing or fair compensation.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at [www.fns.bc.ca](http://www.fns.bc.ca).

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