

FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

News Release

First Nations Summit Supports Lytton First Nation

For Immediate Release July 12, 2007

North Vancouver, BC — The First Nations Summit has called upon the provincial government to respond quickly to resolve the labour dispute in Lytton which is impacting the Lytton First Nation.

Ferry services available to shuttle about 400 Lytton First Nations members across the Fraser River to services and workplaces in Lytton have been curtailed to six hours a day because of a labour dispute. As a result, people are being forced to abandon their cars and walk across a railway trestle.

The Lytton First Nation with the support of the Lytton mayor is extremely frustrated with the situation and has engaged in a peaceful protest.

"The safety of our people who need access to supplies and services is paramount. Arrests are not the order of the day as alluded to by Minister Falcon and will be unacceptable in any way shape or form," said Grand Chief Edward John of the First Nations Summit. "There is a serious need in the community for transportation access and we are calling on the provincial government to take action – not to escalate this difficult situation."

In addition, a resolution supporting this call has been tabled at the National Assembly of First Nations, Annual General Assembly in Halifax and has been endorsed by the Chiefs.

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

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