



FIRST NATIONS SUMMIT

STATEMENT

***For Immediate Release
August 5, 2014***

First Nations Summit statement regarding the Mount Polley Mine Tailings Pond Breach

Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – The First Nations Summit is deeply concerned about the breach of the Mount Polley Mine tailings pond and the devastating environmental impacts the breach will cause in the area.

This is the type of environmental disaster First Nations have been deeply concerned about. There will undoubtedly be vast negative effects on the water quality in the surrounding area which will have adverse impacts to the migration routes and habitat for salmon and other fish, as well as wildlife habitat and plant life in the affected area. First Nations' and non-First Nations alike are asking questions about how this breach occurred, especially with media reports indicating Imperial Metals Corp. was long aware of potential problems which could lead to a potential tailings pond breach.

First Nations along the Fraser River are also highly concerned about the risk of the contaminated waste water reaching the Fraser River salmon habitat which could jeopardize this very valuable resource which First Nations depend on as an important food and ceremonial resource.

The Mount Polley tailings pond breach is unquestionably a serious warning to the mining industry as well as communities throughout British Columbia where, according to the Mining Association of BC, some 30 new mines are being proposed over the next 10 years.

The provincial government must take immediate action to hold the company financially and operationally accountable for the immediate clean-up and necessary remediation.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

For Further Information:

Colin Braker, First Nations Summit
Office: 604.926.9903/Cell: 604.328-4094