



Stk'emplupsemc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN)

PO Box 188, 1030 Trans Canada Hwy.

Savona, BC V0K 2J0

Represented by the Tk'emplups te Secwepemc and the Skeetchestn Band
We do not have a mandate, we have a responsibility We are yecminme7

MEDIA RELEASE

Stk'emplupsemc te Secwepemc Nation and Allies Celebrate Pípsell Designation as Secwépemc Nation Cultural Heritage Site and New Exhibit at the Secwépemc Museum and Heritage Park

June 20, 2017 (Kamloops), Stk'emplupsemc te Secwepemc Nation (SSN) leadership and members met today with many of their neighbouring Secwépemc and allies at the Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park in celebration of the culmination of work around Pípsell (Jacko Lake and area). It was the opening of the SSN Pípsell Exhibit and the inaugural screening of the video highlighting the June 11, 2017, Designation of Pípsell as Secwépemc Nation Cultural Heritage Site.

"The Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park appreciates the opportunity to partner with Stk'emplupsemc te Secwepemc Nation (SSN) and the Kamloops Museum Association in presenting this exciting exhibit to our communities, visitors and guests. The collective work on the history of Pípsell by SSN is groundbreaking and very much in the media at present; this collaboration is an opportunity to share the story of our sacred connection to this land as the original people, and educate the public about our culture, stories and the Title and Rights process."

Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park Museum Archivist, Carryl Armstrong

The designation of Pípsell as a Secwépemc Nation Cultural Heritage Site took place privately with the support of the Secwepemc Nation. Pípsell was marked through ceremony in accordance with Secwepemc Laws, customs and traditions. The SSN, as yecwemíñem (stewards / guardians) of Pípsell on behalf of the Secwépemc, confirmed that the overarching land use objective for Pípsell and the surrounding area is:

Pípsell is a cultural keystone area which must be preserved in a state consistent with the traditional importance of the site to the Secwépemc people. Pípsell must only be used in ways which preserve and sustain the area, and which allow for the culture of the Secwépemc people to be exercised and maintained.

SSN wants to ensure the future enjoyment of Pípsell as they deem it uniquely situated to serve as a place of sharing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

QUOTES:

"As Secwépemc, our connection to Pípsell, a sacred place, is irreplaceable and deeply grounded in one of our oral histories known as the Trout Children Stseptékwll. We cannot transport our connection to Pípsell to another site. It does not make sense to permanently sacrifice all that we have in Pípsell to obtain limited monetary and other benefits which will last for only 25 years. So, instead we choose to honour that connection by marking the land in ceremony and monuments. We are thankful to our many Secwepemc brothers and sisters for standing with us along with our many allies."

Skeetchestn Chief Ron Ignace

Cont...



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“As stewards of our territory, we each have a responsibility to our families, communities, the Secwepemc Nation, as well as the guests of our homelands, to ensure that we are doing our best to ensure healthy people and environment for today and the future. We are pleased to share our story through this new exhibit and short video so that our intent is known. We are following in the footsteps of our Ancestors, so that we may all be great and good.”

Tk'emplúps te Secwepemc Chief Fred Seymour

“June 11, 2017, was a special moment for our Nation as a whole. The community-centred decision made by SSN to say no to KGHM-Ajax opened the door for us as Secwepemc to make a stand for our collective rights and mark Pípsell as a special part of Secwepemcúlecw (our homelands), worthy of preserving and protecting for our future generations.”

Shuswap Nation Tribal Chair, Chief Wayne Christian

Some of the people and organisations that stood as witness in solidarity on June 11, 2017, included:

- Union of BC Indian Chiefs Executive: Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, UBCIC President; Chief Bob Chamberlain, UBCIC Vice-President; Chief Judy Wilson, UBCIC Treasurer;
- Acting Regional Chief BC Assembly of First Nations Maureen Chapman;
- Green Party Canada, Party Leader, Elizabeth May
- Wilderness Committee, National Campaign Director, Joe Foy
- Mining Watch Canada, Ugo Lapointe
- Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society, Dr. Jill Calder
- Thompson River University Faculty Association / Human Rights Committee, Dr Nicole Schabus
- Code Blue, Richard Boyce and Cara Humphreys
- KAPA, Don Barz
- Aberdeen Neighbourhood Association, Helen Newmarch

Link to video “Pípsell –a Secwepemc Nation Cultural Heritage Site”: <https://vimeo.com/222291883>

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Background:

- **SSN DECISION RE: KGHM-AJAX**

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/210983969>

PDF of 12-page Decision Summary Booklet:

http://stkemlups.ca/files/2013/11/2017-03-ssnajaxdecisionsummary_0.pdf

- **SSN ALLIES FORMALISE THEIR SUPPORT FOR SSN DECISION**

April 1, 2017 Media Release: *SSN Allies* Declare their support for the SSN Pípsell Decision to say No to KGHM Ajax and Yes to Health People and Environment

PDF of Media Release

<http://stkemlups.ca/files/2013/11/2017.04.01-SSN-Media-Release-Allies-Event.pdf>

- **SSN SUBMISSION TO CEEA EXPERT PANEL**

Lessons from the Land: Written Submission, Prepared for the CEEA Expert Panel by Stk'emplúsemc Te Secwepemc Nation, December 22, 2016

PDF of Report

http://eareview-examenee.ca/wp-content/uploads/uploaded_files/dec-22-ssn-lessons-from-the-land-ceaa-expert-panel-report.pdf

- **SSN PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS**

Video Link: <https://vimeo.com/194534066>

PDF of 4-Page Process Booklet: http://stkemlups.ca/files/2013/11/SSN_4Pager-v13-12.02-WEB.pdf



The Secwepemc Museum and Heritage Park (SMHP) is a non-profit organization developed under the Shuswap Declaration in 1982 and signed by the 17 bands of the Secwepemc Nation. The museum operates under the Declaration mandate to work in unity to preserve, record, perpetuate and enhance Secwepemc history, language and culture. The museum features exhibits including pre-contact archaeological material, colonial history, and contemporary issues told from the perspective of the Secwepemc. The museum archives holds the documented past of the Secwepemc and includes over 5000 photos, documents, oral histories, maps, and results from various heritage studies. The museum also functions as the repository for the Nation and houses archaeological material unearthed during contemporary development. The SMHP is located on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School and is operated by Tk'emplúps te Secwepemc.

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New exhibits include Ethnobotany, Ranching and Rodeo as well as SSN Pípsell. The Heritage Park consists of 8 hectares of river front space and includes replicated pit houses dating to 4500BP; an ethnobotanical gardens; and a 2400 year old archaeology site.



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