



Stk'emlúpsəmc te Secwépəmc Nation (SSN)

PO Box 188, 1030 Trans Canada Hwy. Savona, BC V0K 2J0

*Represented by the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc and the Skeetchestn Bands
We do not have a mandate, we have a responsibility. We are yecminme7*

MEDIA RELEASE

Stk'emlúpsəmc te Secwépəmc Nation (SSN) Building Allies Across B.C. and Canada To Oppose KGHM's Ajax Mine in Kamloops

Kamloops, April 1st, 2017. Today, over 30 organizations representing hundreds of thousands of members across British Columbia and Canada announced their support to the Stk'emlúpsəmc te Secwépəmc Nation's (SSN) decision to withhold its free, prior and informed consent to the development of the lands and resources at Pípsell (Jacko Lake and area) for the purposes of KGHM's Ajax copper-gold mine.

The announcement was made this morning during an Allies Meeting and a Solidarity Ceremony held at the Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia. Supporting organizations signed a "Declaration of Support" to the SSN Pípsell Decision, announced on March 4th of this year (see list and quotes of supporting organizations enclosed).

The Ajax Mine Project in its proposed location at Pípsell is in opposition to the SSN land use objective for this profoundly sacred, culturally important, and historically significant keystone site, which significance is fundamental and undiminished. If approved, the mine would destroy part of Jacko Lake and irreversibly affect Pípsell.

"The SSN has taken a historic step in self-determination through conducting its own independent assessment of the Ajax open pit project in accordance with SSN laws, traditions, customs and governance system. The SSN wants to preserve the use of Pípsell area for all British Columbians and Canadians in accordance with Secwepemc law," states Dr Ron Ignace, Chief of Skeetchestn.

The SSN, which represents the communities of Tk'emlúps te Secwépəmc and Skeetchestn Indian Band, has an irreplaceable historical, cultural and spiritual connection to Pípsell. Councillor Viola Thomas, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc, says: "This connection is deeply rooted in one their oral histories: the Trout Children Stseptékwll. The Trout Children Oral History is inseparably connected to the place of the proposed Ajax mine site. It encapsulates and expresses the human connection of Stk'emlúpsəmc te Secwépəmc, to Pípsell. It sustains Secwépəmc law about Secwépəmc conduct on the land and the reciprocal accountability to living beings on the land, social conduct across generations and within generations."

See new video release here <https://vimeo.com/210983969>, and 12-page SSN Decision here http://miningwatch.ca/sites/default/files/2017-03-ssnajaxdecisionsummary_0.pdf

SSN Spokespeople

- Dr Ron Ignace, Chief of Skeetchestn
- Councillor Viola Thomas, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc
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Stk'emplúsemc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN)

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Declaration of Support to Stk'emplúsemc te Secwépemc Nation, April 1st, 2017, Kamloops:

Union of BC Indians Chiefs
British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
First Nations Women Advocating for Responsible Mining
Indigenous Environment Network
West Coast Environmental Law
David Suzuki Foundation
Sierra Club BC
Leadnow
SumOfUs
Council of Canadians
MiningWatch Canada
Rivers Without Borders
Wilderness Committee
RAVEN Trust
Fair Mining Collaborative
BC Environmental Network
Northern Confluence
Clayoquot Action
Kamloops Code Blue
Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society
Kamloops Area Preservation Association
Kamloops Moms For Clean Air
Thompson Institute for Environmental Studies
Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association Human Rights Committee
Thompson Watershed Coalition
Aberdeen Neighborhood Area
Sagebrush Neighbourhood Association
Coalition East Kamloops
Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake
Forest Protection Allies

