



## 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

### **A Promising Future Painted by CEAA Expert Panel Clashes with the Reality of a Hot-Bed of Concerns and Sidelined First Nations in Current EA Process**

April 5, 2017 (Kamloops), In reviewing the newly released “Building Common Ground: A New Vision for Impact Assessment in Canada, The Final Report of the Expert Panel for the Review of Environmental Assessment Processes,” the Stk'emplupsemc te Secwépemc (SSN) Joint Council was pleased to see a reflection of the many points they and other Indigenous groups raised with the Expert Panel. Of particular interest to Stk'emplupsemc te Secwépemc were the following recommendations as it directly relates to the challenges that SSN currently faces in their KGHM-Ajax Project Review Assessment.

*Instead of advancing reconciliation, EA processes have increased the potential for conflict, increased the capacity burden on under-resourced Indigenous Groups and minimized Indigenous concerns and jurisdiction. (page 27)*

*Indigenous Peoples will see many elements of UNDRIP reflected in the vision. Rather than finding themselves left on the sidelines of discussion around projects that affect them, Indigenous Peoples will be part of the decision-making process. (page 14)*

*Indigenous Peoples be included in decision-making at all stages of IA, in accordance with their own laws and customs. (page 3)*

*Evidence comes in many forms and includes Indigenous knowledge and community knowledge. The sustainability-based IA framework being proposed seeks to integrate all relevant evidence that supports outcomes within the environmental, health, social, cultural and economic pillars. (page 4)*

*The proposed assessment process would seek to engage Indigenous Groups from early project planning through to assessment decisions and follow-up. It would more accurately and holistically assess impacts to Aboriginal and treaty rights and interests and identify appropriate accommodation measures. This IA process should contribute to a meaningful nation-to-nation relationship. (page 5)*

The Expert Panel stated that, in British Columbia, they “found a hot-bed of concern around oil and gas pipelines, as well as mining projects, hydro-electrical projects and ports.”

A month ago, Stk'emplupsemc te Secwépemc publicly announced our decision to choose a healthy environment and people over the proposed KGHM-Ajax development of the KGHM-Ajax open-pit copper and gold mine in its traditional territory and extending into the footprint of the City of Kamloops. Since that time, over thirty organisations have stood with SSN in our decision. Also since that time, the federal and provincial “clocks” has started back up on their assessment of KGHM-Ajax proposed project.

Cont'...





## Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN)

PO Box 188, 1030 Trans Canada Hwy.

Savona, BC V0K 2J0

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

SSN does not have a collaborative framework nor has it been part of all stages of the Environmental Assessment process. There is no current consideration of our laws in the current process and our decision is to be taken "under advisement." Minister McKenna and her British Columbia counterparts have an unprecedented opportunity to review the SSN Decision package through the informed lens of the Expert Panel's findings.

Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc calls on Minister McKenna to embrace the "Principle of "Walking on Two Legs" (Western & Indigenous), as it is necessary to support Canada's goal of reconciliation. When processes are designed to respect both ways of knowing and understanding the world, we can create a value system that will support equity in decision-making processes" (page 97)

-30-

SSN Media Contact:

Racelle Kooy

Mobile: 250-267-7782

Email: [racelle@stkemlupsemc.ca](mailto:racelle@stkemlupsemc.ca)

### Background:

- **SSN Project Review Process**

VIDEO LINK: <https://vimeo.com/194534066>

FOUR-PAGE PROCESS INTRO: [www.stkemlups.ca/process/](http://www.stkemlups.ca/process/)

- **SSN Decision re: KGHM-Ajax**

VIDEO LINK: <https://vimeo.com/210983969>

12-PAGE DECISION SUMMARY: [www.stkemlups.ca/process/](http://www.stkemlups.ca/process/)

