OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS
CHIEFS COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 22ND- NOVEMBER 23RD, 2011
VANCOUVER, B.C.

Resolution no. 2011-55

RE: Support for Qat'muk Declaration and Opposition to the Proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort

WHEREAS the Ktunaxa have lived in their territory since time immemorial and have a deep spiritual connection to the animal world and, in particular, to the grizzly bear;

WHEREAS Qat'muk is a very special place where the Grizzly Bear Spirit was born, goes to heal itself, and returns to the spirit world. The Grizzly Bear Spirit is an important source of guidance, strength, protection and spirituality for the Ktunaxa. Qat'muk's importance for the Grizzly Bear Spirit is inextricably linked with its importance for living grizzly bears now and in the future, and the Ktunaxa have a stewardship obligation and duty to the Grizzly Bear Spirit and Qat'muk;

WHEREAS Qat'muk includes the entirety of the Toby-Jumbo watershed and the uppermost parts of the South Fork Glacier Creek, Horsethief Creek and Farnham Creek watersheds, and is in the central part of the Purcell Mountains that include the area of the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort;

WHEREAS the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* supports the Ktunaxa Nation's right to: (a) manifest, practice, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies and to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites [Article 12]; and (b) maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters, and other resources and to uphold our responsibilities to future generations in this regard [Article 25];

WHEREAS the Ktunaxa Nation has been opposed to the Jumbo Glacier Resort since it was first proposed in 1991, based principally on the spiritual importance of the Qat'muk area for Ktunaxa people, but also derives from Ktunaxa concerns for the protection of wildlife populations (especially grizzly bears), biodiversity and water quality;

WHEREAS by Resolution 2010-03, the UBCIC Chiefs Council supports the right of a First Nation to protect their territory and the health of their community;

WHEREAS on November 15, 2010, the Ktunaxa Nation Council, on behalf of the Ktunaxa Nation, signed the Qat'muk Declaration, which sets out the Ktunaxa Nation's connection to Qat'muk, proclaims a framework for protection of the Qat'muk area, identifies Qat'muk Stewardship Principles and sets out the Ktunaxa Nation's intention to prepare a management plan in consultation with other governments and stakeholders;

WHEREAS the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort received a provincial environmental certificate in 2005, and the final step is approval of a master development agreement, which the Minister of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations can make at any time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the Qat'muk Declaration, and the efforts of the Ktunaxa Nation to ensure that their Aboriginal Title and Rights are honoured and preserved;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council fully supports the efforts of the Ktunaxa Nation to protect their lands in the Qat'muk area of profound cultural and spiritual value, and opposes development of the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council calls on the Provincial Government of British Columbia to uphold the Qat'muk Declaration and the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and reject the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort;

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the UBCIC Chiefs Council directs the UBCIC Executive and staff to work with the Ktunaxa Nation in their efforts to protect the Qat'muk area and oppose the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort.

Moved: **Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation**
Seconded: **Terry Dorward-Seitcher, Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation (Proxy)**
Disposition: **Carried**
Date: **November 23rd, 2011**