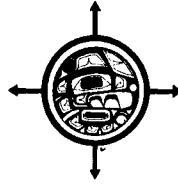


# OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**October 8, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **UBCIC Supports 5 Nations' Call for Participation in Kemass Mine Review**

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, October 8, 2004) "The Union of BC Indian Chiefs is proud to offer its support to the Gitksan House of Nii Kyap, Takla Lake First Nation, Fort Connelly First Nation, Kwadacha First Nation and the Tsay Keh Dene First Nation in their collective opposition to Northgate Minerals Corporation's proposed 'Kemess North' mine," said Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

The 5 Nations are collectively seeking participation in a tripartite review panel and the respective environmental assessment agencies of the federal and provincial government. The 5 Nations believe that Northgate Minerals Corporation's will adversely affect the biodiversity of their respective territories.

Chief Phillip stated, "As we have seen in the *Haida* and *Taku River Tlingit* decisions, the courts have recognized that the Province of British Columbia's approach to consultation is fundamentally flawed. There exists an 'enforceable, legal and equitable duty to consult' to both the Provincial Crown and to third parties like Northgate Minerals. Courts are continually confirming that our Aboriginal Title and Rights exist and must be meaningfully and substantively addressed. The UBCIC firmly believes that this duty starts from the proposal stage and continues right through to the conclusion stage of any large-scale operation such as the Kemass North mine."

Chief Phillip concluded, "We echo the comment of Justa Monk of the 5 Nations that history tells First Nations that their interests, their rights and their title cannot be adequately accommodated by the existing review process. Only First Nations full involvement in all resource management decisions can ensure that. To the Campbell and Martin governments, open the door to the 5 Nations instead of shutting them out."

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