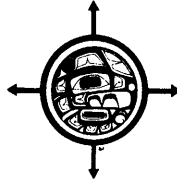


OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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PRESS RELEASE
March 24, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Complete Failure of Aboriginal Policy

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, March 24, 2004) "The *Haida* and *Taku River Tlingit* cases, presently being heard by the Supreme Court of Canada, represent undeniable evidence of the complete failure of Aboriginal policies for both the governments of British Columbia and Canada" stated Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

Haida and *Taku River Tlingit* cases are being heard at the Supreme Court of Canada because the fundamental legal issue is the same for both cases, though the facts differ, the primary issue before the Supreme Court is when does the duty to consult arise for government and/or industry?

Chief Phillip continued, "The fact of the matter is that both the *Haida* and the *Taku River Tlingit* have been compelled to seek legal remedy before the Supreme Court of Canada rather than entertaining the unilateral and fumbling attempts of 'good-faith' negotiations of the governments of BC and Canada."

"What the Courts have consistently stated is that governments must negotiate in good faith to address and accommodate our Aboriginal Title and Rights now rather than later. Furthermore, the courts have also stated that third party interests must engage in consultations with First Nations in respect of any activities that may impact or infringe Aboriginal Title or Rights. We firmly believe that the Supreme Court of Canada will confirm these court victories. Contrary to what the Government of BC contends, long-term economic certainty can only be achieved through the full recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal Title interests, not by hawking cheap accommodation agreements designed to buy temporary peace in the woods, on the waters and out in the oil patch" concluded Chief Phillip.

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