

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

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NEWS RELEASE

September 2, 2010

Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs Travels to Ottawa to Support Tsilhqot'in Nation Government's Call for Federal Rejection of Prosperity Mine Proposal

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, Canada – September 2, 2010) The Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs stands in solidarity with the Tsilhqot'in Nation, Esketemc First Nation, Canoe Creek Band and the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council's call for the federal Cabinet to reject the Prosperity mine project.

"Taseko Mining Limited's Prosperity Mine proposal is the poster child for everything that is wrong with the mining industry in BC. By stark contrast, through hard, deliberate negotiations and after an extensive period of dialogue and consultation, the Tk'emlups and Skeetchestn Indian Bands were able to conclude benefit sharing agreements with respect to New Gold's New Afton mine," said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs.

Grand Chief Phillip stated, "The Tsilhqot'in Nation has been more than reasonable and has conveyed their deep concerns about the Prosperity Mine proposal at every opportunity. It was hoped that the federal Cabinet would see the significant and irreversible impacts of this project and reject its development. It is now understood that Cabinet's decision is imminent. In the event Cabinet simply ignores the deep concerns as reflected in the recent Federal Review Panel's findings, it will trigger a province-wide and nation-wide backlash that will severely jeopardize relationships between First Nations and the mining industry for years to come."

"The Union of BC Indian Chiefs will continue to stand in unity and solidarity with any and all First Nations defending their sacred lands, Indigenous Title, Rights and Treaty Rights" concluded Grand Chief Phillip.

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