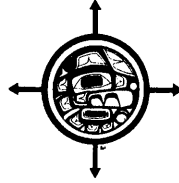


OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

FOUNDING HEAD OFFICE
345 Yellowhead Highway
Kamloops, B.C. V2H 1H1
Tel: (250) 828-9746
Fax: (250) 828-0319



VANCOUVER OFFICE
5th Floor, 342 Water Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1B6
Tel: (604) 684-0231
Fax: (604) 684-5726
Email: ubcic@ubcic.bc.ca
Website: www.ubcic.bc.ca

PRESS RELEASE
January 21, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Only First Nations Can Guarantee Certainty

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, January 21, 2004) "The Union of BC Indian Chiefs emphatically rejects the notion that certainty can be achieved by signing self-serving agreements between third party interests and the Provincial Government. Clearly the Provincial Government is desperately seeking economic certainty for third party interests. This agreement does not provide an atmosphere of certainty and investment confidence in the province regarding access to land and land use. In actual fact, what we will see is more litigation and land-use conflicts from mountain peak to mountain peak and from valley to valley," stated Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC).

Chief Stewart Phillip was responding today to the signing of an agreement between the Council of Tourism Associations of British Columbia (COTA), the BC & Yukon Chamber of Mines (BCYCM), the Mining Association of British Columbia (MABC) and the BC Government announced today.

Chief Stewart Phillip concluded, "The Courts have consistently stated that governments must negotiate in good faith to address Aboriginal Title and Rights. In addition, the courts have stated that third party interests must also engage in consultations with First Nations in respect of any activities that may impact or infringe Aboriginal Title or Rights. Economic certainty can only be achieved through the full recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal Title interests. Anything less will only result in deepening the economic uncertainty and ultimately the erosion of investment confidence in respect to access to land and land use in British Columbia."

- 30 -

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Chief Stewart Phillip (250) 490-5314
President