

Declaration of Support

for the

Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation

Pípsell (Jacko Lake & area) Decision

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS & LETTERS

Allies Meeting

April 1, 2017



"The Union of BC Indian Chiefs stands in solidarity with the decision of the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation to withhold its consent to Ajax open pit mine in the Pípsell area"

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip (President)
Chief Bob Chamberlin (Vice-President)
Kukpi7 Judy Wilson (Secretary-Treasurer), UBCIC

"The British Columbia Assembly of First Nations (BCAFN) fully supports the SSN in their decision and applauds their thorough and inclusive efforts to comprehensively assess the project since it began in 2015. The protection and defense of Secwepemc Title and Rights is paramount, and BCAFN would also like to acknowledge the communities, youth, elders, and leaders who participated in this process."



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS**



Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

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PRESS RELEASE

"The Shuswap Nation Tribal Council supports the SSN and all the family representatives who have worked so tirelessly to get to this place. The work that they have undertaken on behalf of the Secwepemc Nation is a soaring achievement onto its self.

We applaud the SSN for the work that they have done and the model they have created for achieving a community centered Indigenous environmental assessment process. As the proper title holders and caretakers of this land, we have a duty to ensure it is used in a sustainable way so that future generations may also enjoy its benefits. What the SSN Project Assessment Panel has given us is a way in which we can make decisions regarding the land, taking into account all pertinent information, and including the proper representatives to be decision makers in the process"

Kukpi7 Wayne Christian, Tribal Chair

First Nations Women Advocating For Responsible Mining



First Nations Women Advocating For Responsible Mining stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers of the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation, which after a careful review of the social, cultural, and environmental impacts of the Ajax mine project, decided to withhold their consent. We also support their wish to preserve this area for the benefits of all Canadians.

Bev Sellars, Chair, FNWARM

"The David Suzuki Foundation believes all peoples in Canada have the right to a healthy environment. We therefore stand in solidarity with the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation (SSN) in their efforts to preserve and protect, "Pípsell", an area of cultural, spiritual and historical significance that would be jeopardized by the Ajax Mine Project."

Alaya Boisvert, Manager of Blue Dot government relations



**David
Suzuki
Foundation**

SOLUTIONS ARE IN OUR NATURE



MiningWatch supports the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation's right to withhold its consent to KHGM's Ajax mine project, which would destroy part of Jacko Lake and irreversibly affect Pípsell, an area sacred to First Nations and which should be preserved for the benefit of all Canadians.

Ugo Lapointe, MiningWatch Canada

"Sierra Club BC recognizes and upholds the self-determination of the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation, and we honour the decision of the Nation to oppose the Ajax Mine Project. We share concerns for the ecological and cultural impacts that would result from this destructive mine."

Caitlyn Vernon, Campaigns Director, Sierra Club BC



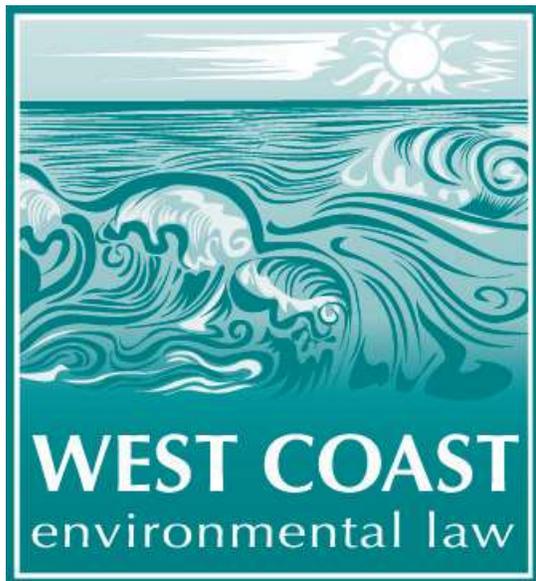
**SIERRA
CLUB BC**

“RAVEN is honoured to express our utmost support to Stk’emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation in their exercise of Free, Prior and Informed Consent with regards to the proposed Ajax mine project.

As an organization serving the vision of a country that honours the ancestral laws, rights and stewardship values of Indigenous Peoples, RAVEN is proud to be standing in support and solidarity with Stk’emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation.

We appreciate that Stk’emlupsemc te Secwepemc decision to preserve and sustain Pipsell is for the long-term benefit of all Canadians and serves to further reconciliation.”

Ana Simeon, Campaign Manager at RAVEN



West Coast Environmental Law is pleased to sign the Declaration of Support for Stk’emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation, which supports the revitalization of indigenous laws, culture, and people.

Erica Stahl, West Coast Environmental Law

"Fair Mining Collaborative supports the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation's thorough evaluation of the KGHM Ajax mine proposal in Kamloops, and their well articulated decision to not support the development of this mine project. We support their inherent right to determine if this project is in their Nation's best interests."

Amy Crook, Executive Director



"Rivers Without Borders is proud to stand in solidarity with the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation (SSN) over their decision to reject the KGHM Ajax Mine project near Kamloops, BC. Keep Jacko Lake protected from the Ajax Mine development in order to conserve the spiritual and historical significance of this body of water and surrounding land for future generations. We stand with the SSN people, the water, the land, and with the many Kamloops community members who are rightly concerned about the proposed mine."

Will Patric, Executive Director, Rivers without Borders



WILDERNESS C O M M I T T E E

"The Wilderness Committee is pleased to support the Stk'emlúpsenc te Secwepemc Nation's (SSN) decision to not support the Ajax Mine proposal, which is within SSN territory near Kamloops BC. We believe that large industrial proposals like the Ajax Mine Project have the potential to greatly impact title and rights within First Nations' territories and that First Nations must have the right of veto in order to protect their current and future generations," said Joe Foy, National Campaign Director for the Wilderness Committee. "After careful consideration the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation has decided to not support the Ajax Mine Project and we are adding our voice calling for the mine project to be shelved due to lack of support from the Aboriginal owners of the territory,"

Joe Foy, National Campaign Director



Clayoquot Action

"Our Organization is in solidarity with your decision not to give your free, prior and informed consent to the development of the Ajax Mine Project at Pípsell. It is clear to us that the work you have done will benefit not only your Nations, but also the other creatures sharing this space, and ultimately all Canadians."

► Dan Lewis, Executive Director

"Kamloops Code Blue would like to express our support for the Stk'emlupsemc Te Secwepemc Nation (SSN) regarding their rejection of the proposed Ajax mine.

We respect and admire the inclusive process that they undertook in order to make this decision."



" We share this valley with our First Nations neighbours. We also share an appreciation for clean air, water and soil. We all depend upon this environment to sustain us and keep our families healthy. We will stand together to defend our quality of life and join our First Nation neighbours in saying yes to healthy people and a healthy environment. We invite like minded members of our community to join us"

Cara Humphreys and Richard Boyce for Kamloops Code Blue



Indigenous Environmental Network

"As an Indigenous-based network working in Indigenous rights and environmental justice issues since 1990, we are familiar of the many environmental and health risks of copper-gold open pit mining technology and practices that the KGHM Ajax Mine would create. Our network stands in solidarity with the Stk'emlúpssemc te Secwépemc Nation, representing the communities of Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and Skeetchestn Indian Bands in their opposition to provide free, prior and informed consent to the development of the lands and territories at Pípsell area, including Jacko Lake, for the purposes of the Ajax Mine Project. Mines such as this have consistently demonstrated violations against the natural laws of Mother Earth."

Tom BK Goldtooth, IEN

Thompson Institute of Environmental Studies

"We fully support the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation in their rights to withhold their consent to the Ajax open pit mine located in the heart of Pípsell, an area sacred to SSN, to Kamloops folks, and all Canadians "

Ruth Madson, Thompson Institute of Environmental Studies



B.C. Environmental Network

"Without free, prior, informed consent from the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation (SSN), AJAX Mine cannot proceed legally. This mine is a non-sense. In our opinion, it would need to post over 1 Billion dollars in bonding to ensure clean up costs and restoration of the site, an accidental spill of the Mt Polley type, plus a permanent water treatment plant than would need to be in operational for the next 1000 years, or more! AJAX would never post such a bond, because they would want taxpayers to cover the costs of any accident, restoration, and water treatment runoff."

Rod Marining, BC Environmental Network



Thompson
Rivers University
Faculty
Association
Human Rights
Committee

Thompson Watershed Coalition

"The Council of Canadians supports the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which includes Article 19, the right to free, prior and informed consent."

Anita Strong for the Council of Canadians



Aberdeen Neighbourhood Association

"The Aberdeen Neighbourhood Association wishes to formally acknowledge and support the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation on their decision to NOT give its free, prior and informed consent to the development of the proposed KGHM Ajax mine project. Their concerns for the environment, the health of their community members and their neighbours (the residents of the City of Kamloops) is laudable.

As a neighbourhood association, we greatly appreciate the decision they have made since we also believe this project would have profound adverse effects on our community."

Helen Newmarch, Aberdeen Neighbourhood Association

“The Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake support the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation's (SSN) decision to not give its free, prior and informed consent to the development of the lands and resources at Pipsell for the purposes of the Ajax Mine Project. The work you are doing in Kamloops will have impact for all that are affected and impacted by Industry!”

Christine McLean, Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake



CCQL

Concerned Citizens of Quesnel Lake

**Kamloops Moms for
Clean Air**



“Kamloops Moms For Clean Air wishes to make a formal statement of support and to give thanks to the SSN for their careful review of the Ajax mining application, their choice for a healthy environment and healthy people in the Pipsell and Kamloops region, and for their gracious message of inclusivity when talking about the preservation of aboriginal culture and tradition in the Pipsell region that is for the benefit of all Canadians.”

Gina Morris, Kamloops Moms for Clean Air

We fully support SSN and are grateful for the leadership taken.

Nikki Skuce, Director,
Northern Confluence Initiative



NORTHERN
CONFLUENCE

Coalition to Protect East Kamloops

"Dedicated to the preservation of the silt bluff grasslands throughout the valley view corridor confirm our support for the SSN Pípsell Decision and area the SSN call Pípsell (Jacko Lake) and the unceded land all around.

We support SSN and the prevention of KGHM (Ajax mine) from acquiring this grassland area and opposing any mine operation as we know how damaging it would be to the grasslands and the city of Kamloops."

Tony Brunell, Coalitio to protect East Kamloops



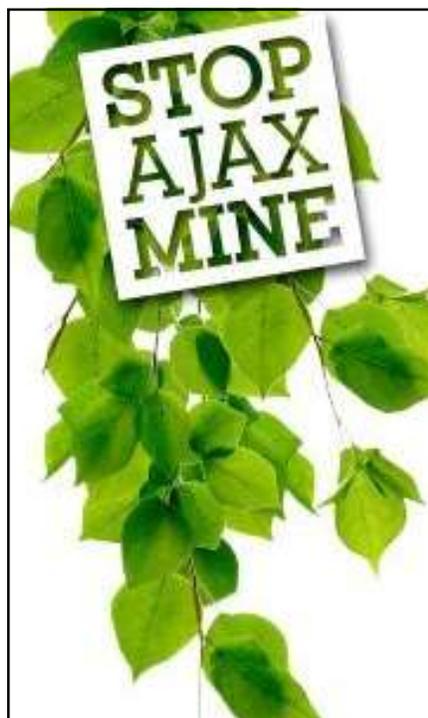
Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society

Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of Kamloops by promoting health education and science-based interventions that result in maintaining and improving the environment.

"Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society reviewed the proposed mine by KGHM Ajax and concluded that its operation so close to our 100,000 people community, upwind and uphill, will have significant negative health impacts. We are against this project, in this location, and have repeated and clearly stated the scientific evidence to back our statements.

We support the SSN in their submission that they too have reviewed the project and concluded it should not proceed. They are the experts on the historic use of the land in their unceded territory, and we are sensitive to the special cultural and spiritual significance of this land to their people."

Dr. Jill Calder, Kamloops Physicians for a Healthy Environment Society



Kamloops Area Preservation Association

"KAPA strongly supports the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc (SSN) decision to reject proposed Ajax Mine. We applaud the SSN for making a fact-based decision.

The proposed mine will have adverse impacts on sacred Pipsell, which includes the area of Jacko Lake and the grasslands and will have adverse impacts on nearby residential areas. This confirms what we have been saying — the proposed mine is simply too big and too close to people and sensitive areas for it to have positive benefits for Kamloops and First Nations.

It is a common sense decision for clean air and clean water."

Paula Pick, Kamloops Area Preservation Association



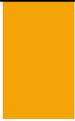
leadnow.ca
people powered change

"Leadnow is honoured to sign the Declaration of Support to Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation to preserve Pípsell area for the benefit of all Canadians"

Rachel Tretrault Leadnow

"We are opposed to any mining company that propose a mine that would not be fully supported by local First Nations, built 2 kilometers from where children go to school and uses millions of liters of water a year"

Angus Wong, Campaign Manger



**Sum
Of
+ Us**
