



NEWS RELEASE

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First Nations seek mutual way forward on mining in B.C.

Organizers release B.C. First Nations Mining Summit Day 1 agenda

Dakelh Traditional Territory/Prince George, B.C. – First Nations organizers of a three-day meeting on mining issues have today released an agenda for the one day portion that brings together representatives from First Nations, governments, mining, NGOs, and others. The agenda covers October 7, day one of the event.

Delegates will gather to discuss four main topics: State of the Mining Industry, Environmental Assessment, Effective Engagement & Decision-Making, and Case Studies. Along with noted B.C. First Nations leaders, guest speakers include Minister of State for Mining Gordon Hogg, President of the Mining Association of B.C. Dave Parker, Executive Director of the Canadian Boreal Initiative Larry Innes, Vice-President of the Mining Association of Canada Rick Meyers, Deputy Grand Chief of the Innu Nation Peter Penashue, and former NWT Premier Stephen Kakfwi, plus others not yet confirmed at this time.

"The first day provides an opportunity to come together as First Nations, governments, mining industry representatives, and other key stakeholders, to uncover root issues commonly facing us today and to share interests, concerns, and solutions," said BC Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Shawn Atleo. "This forum presents a timely opportunity to hear the ways in which the mining industry plans to address Aboriginal title and rights, and to fill the void where others have failed or have refused to go."

"We're interested in building relationships rather than conflict," said Carrier Sekani Tribal Chief David Luggi. "This summit is an historic opportunity for First Nations, federal and provincial governments, mining companies, and NGOs to find new and better ways to pursue sustainable resource development that respects both Aboriginal rights and title and provides opportunities and benefits for everyone."

"The Premier's New Relationship with First Nations included a commitment to change the way business is done in this province," said mining summit co-chair and Kaska spokesperson Dave Porter. "The demand for minerals and metals will only grow in BC – adding to the nearly two dozen mine applications already in the environmental review process. So it is crucial that we find a mutual and better way forward for exploration and mining in BC. Our hope then is that this summit will produce proactive solutions to bring to an end friction and conflict on the land and in the regulatory process."

"Out-dated mining regulations and policies that severely challenge First Nations' title and rights, compounded by industry's natural aggressiveness, is adversely affecting the sector's growth in this province. Drastic changes on part of governments and industry are required. These changes need to result in real improvements in the everyday lives of First Nations people. My hope for this timely forum is that First Nations bring their mining and exploration issues with them so that together with government and industry we can discuss and agree on how to reconcile approaches and outcomes for all concerned," said Taku River Tlingit First Nations spokesperson Sandra Jack.

Day two and three of the mining summit will be in-camera sessions for First Nations representatives to draft an action plan on mining issues.

Organizers of the mining summit include the First Nations Leadership Council (BC Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Summit, and Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs), Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Kaska Tribal Council, and Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

For more information, visit: www.bcfnms.ca

- 30 -

Media Contact: Ryneld Starr, Communications Officer, BCAFN, 604-922-7733

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FIRST NATIONS MINING SUMMIT AGENDA – Day 1 October 7, 2008

Start Time	Subject
7:30	Registration
8:30	Opening Prayer and Welcome: Lheidli Tenn'eh First Nation Chief Dominique Frederick
8:40	Review of Agenda and Forum Outcomes : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chairs: Dave Porter and Leonard Thomas • Moderator: Dan George
8:45	Opening Remarks: Host First Nations and First Nations Leadership Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal Chief David Luggi • Chief Shawn Atleo • Grand Chief Steward Phillip • Grand Chief Edward John
9:00	<p><u>Topic: State of the Mining Industry</u></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Porter, Kaska Nation • Hon. Gordon Hogg , BC Minister of State for Mining • Natural Resources Canada Representative (TBA) • Dave Parker, President, Mining Association of BC <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the political context we're operating in? • What is the state of the industry? • What are the opportunities? • What are the challenges? • How can we improve the way we do things? • What are the issues we need to work on together?
10:00	Discussion / Q&A
10:30	Break
10:45	<p><u>Topic: Environmental Assessment</u></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takla, Tsay Keh Dene, Kwadacha Leadership (TBA) • Tahltan Leadership (TBA) • Joe Truscott, Mining Sector Lead, BC Environmental Assessment Office • Tony Pearse, Environmental Consultant <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the challenges with the existing processes and how can shared decision making be implemented? • What are the benefits, or potential benefits, of the existing process? • What changes can be made to improve environmental assessment and permitting?
11:45	Discussion / Q&A
12:15	Networking Lunch (provided)
1:30	<p><u>Topic: Effective Engagement and Decision-Making</u></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grand Chief Edward John, First Nations Summit Task Group

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larry Innes, Executive director, Canadian Boreal Initiative • Rick Meyers, Vice-President, Mining Association of Canada <p>Key Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the fundamental principles of effective engagement and decision-making? • What are the features of effective engagement and decision-making? • What are the tools to facilitate effective engagement and decision-making? • How can legislation and policy assist in facilitating effective engagement and decision-making?
2:30	Discussion / Q&A
3:00	Break
3:15	<p><u>Topic: Case studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Penashue, Deputy Grand Chief of the Innu Nation – Voisey’s Bay Experience • Hon. Stephen Kakfwi, Former Premier, Northwest Territories • Representative, Diavik Diamond Mines, Yellowknife, NWT (TBA)
4:15	Discussion / Q&A
5:00	Adjourn
6:00	Dinner session with Chiefs, Ministers, and Mining CEOs Keynote Speaker – TBA

BREAKOUT ROOMS	
Start Times	Topic
9:00 am and 1:00 pm	BCIT / AME BC: Introductory to mining
10:30 am and 3:30 pm	First Nations Environmental Health Innovation Network and the BC Leadership Chair in Aboriginal Environmental Health: <i>Environmental Health and Mining – Contaminants and Risk Assessment and Community-Based Contaminants Research: Lessons Learned, Challenges, and Opportunities</i>
1:00	ENGO presentation