



TAKU RIVER TLINGIT FIRST NATION

Governance Office

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September 20, 2018

Honourable Michelle Mungall
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Victoria, British Columbia

Re: Environmental Cleanup of Tulsequah Mine Site

Dear Honourable Minister,

I am writing to restate the Taku River Tlingit First Nation's (TRTFN) concerns around the ongoing environmental degradation at the Tulsequah Mine site and its impacts to our Aboriginal Rights and Title. We urge the Province to act immediately and decisively to address this issue.

While the TRTFN has remained open to considering a project that does not involve major access road construction, has a longer mine life, and would result in a guaranteed cleanup of the ongoing acid mine drainage (AMD), our experience in the various mining proposals associated with this mine site leaves us with no confidence that this is likely to happen.

In the meantime, as a 2016 ecological risk assessment undertaken by BC demonstrates, the AMD at this site continues to pollute aquatic habitat in the Tulsequah River and threaten migratory salmon populations in the downstream area of the Taku. We consider situations such as this that have a negative effect on salmon populations or habitats, to undermine our ability to fully exercise our Aboriginal Rights.

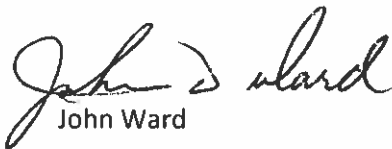
This situation has gone on for far too long and we continue to be frustrated to see Provincial Compliance Orders that have not been effectively enforced to date.

We respectfully remind you that both Canada and British Columbia have pledged to embrace and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Further, we

point out that the ongoing contamination of our lands is not consistent with Article 29 of UNDRIP which in part states: "*Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands....*"

To be clear, the TRTFN seeks immediate and full remediation of this site including effective resolution of the outstanding water quality issues so as to restore the productive capacity of our land. To this end we are willing to work collaboratively with the Province, Canada, and any other interested party to address these issues.

Gunalchéesh, (thank you with respect)



John Ward

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cc:

Peter Robb, Assistant Deputy Minister, Mining and Mineral Resources Division,

Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director, MEM

Chantelle Hart, G2G Co-chair, Taku River Tlingit FN