



First Nations Summit Passes Resolution Calling for The Federal Government to Reject the Prosperity Mine Proposal

***For Immediate Release
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Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver – First Nations leaders gathered this week in North Vancouver for the First Nations Summit Chiefs' Assembly have passed a resolution urging the federal government to reject the Taseko Ltd. Prosperity Mine proposal.

The unanimous resolution states:

Therefore Be It Resolved

1. That the First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly, including the Esketemc of the Northern Secwepemc and the Tsilhqot'in Nation, support the New Democratic Party's request that a Standing Committee be established to address the impacts of the Prosperity mine and appointed to address Cabinet.
2. The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly fully support the efforts of First Nations to protect their lands of profound cultural and spiritual value to its peoples from the proposed prosperity Copper-Gold mine, and will stand behind First Nations in defense of these lands regardless of the decision made by the Federal Government.
3. The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly call upon the Federal Government to heed the cautions of its independent Panel, demonstrate commitment to environmental protection and the cultural survival of First Nations, and reject the proposed Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine.
4. The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly advise the Federal Government that First Nations across Canada are watching its decision to see whether there remains any value or integrity in environmental assessments for major projects, or whether First Nations must turn to litigation and other means to assert our rights and protect our cultures.
5. The First Nations Summit Chiefs in Assembly caution the Federal Government that approval of the proposed Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine, despite clear warnings of its independent Panel, would demonstrate utter disregard for the survival of First Nations as distinctive cultures within Canada.

A Federal Review Panel extensively reviewed Taseko Mines Limited's proposed \$800 million Prosperity gold-copper mine at Teztan Biny (Fish Lake), near Williams Lake BC and clearly indicated there would be 'significant adverse environmental effects' as a direct result of the proposed Prosperity Mine. The proposal would entail draining the lake to store waste tailings from the copper and gold processing operations and replacing the lake with an artificial one (Fish Lake is currently habitat to 90,000 rainbow trout and the artificial one would support 20,000 trout). The panel's findings are similar to those that ultimately led to the rejection of the Northgate Mineral's Kemess North proposal in 2007.

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The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. Further background information on the Summit may be found at www.fns.bc.ca.

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