ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JULY 20, 21 & 22, 2010, WINNIPEG, MB

Resolution no. 01/2010

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| TITLE: | Support for the Tsilhqot'in Nation and Call for Federal Rejection of the Proposed Prosperity Mine |
| SUBJECT: | Environmental Stewardship |
| MOVED BY: | Chief Joe Alphonse, Tribal Chair, Tsilhqot'in National Government, BC |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Frances Laceese, Tribal Chair, Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council, BC |
| DECISION: | Carried by Consensus |

WHEREAS:

A. The Tsilhqot'in Nation opposes the proposed Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine (the "Project") because it requires the complete destruction of Teztan Biny (Fish Lake), a traditional fishery and ceremonial site that has sustained the Tsilhqot'in people for generations, in an area where the Tsilhqot'in people hold proven Aboriginal hunting and trapping rights.

B. Entire communities of the Tsilhqot'in people attended the public hearings held by the federal panel (the "Panel") conducting the environmental assessment of the Project and Tsilhqot'in members from as young as 7 to as old as 90 explained the cultural and spiritual importance of these lands and waters to the Panel.

C. The independent Panel concluded that "the Project would result in significant adverse environmental effects on fish and fish habitat, on navigation, on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by First Nations and on cultural heritage, and on certain potential or established Aboriginal rights or title" and on threatened grizzly bear populations.

D. The Panel specifically concluded that the mine would permanently destroy lands and waters described as an "important cultural and spiritual area" for the Tsilhqot'in people, "an important teaching environment" for Tsilhqot'in youth, an "important source of fish for their sustenance" and "a place of spiritual power and healing for the Tsilhqot'in".

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E. The Panel further warned that "the loss of the Teztan Biny (Fish Lake) and Nabas areas for current use activities, ceremonies, teaching, and cultural and spiritual practices would be irreversible, of high magnitude and have a long-term effect on the Tsilhqot'in" and these "impacts on the physical and mental health of the Tsilhqot'in communities would be long term".

F. Although the Panel provided recommendations to the Government should the Project proceed, it explicitly cautioned that "it does not believe that these recommendations would eliminate or accommodate the significant loss First Nations would experience …".

G. The decision to approve or reject the Project is now in the hands of the federal Cabinet, and there is heavy lobbying by the Government of British Columbia, the mining industry and others for the approval of the Project notwithstanding that these are the most dire warnings of environmental and cultural damage that a federal Panel has ever issued.

H. First Nations across Canada are directed by the courts and the governments to participate in environmental assessment processes to raise concerns about development, often despite strong misgivings about whether these concerns will be properly heard or weighed in these processes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support the efforts of the Tsilhqot'in Nation to protect their lands of profound cultural and spiritual value to its people from the proposed Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine, and will stand behind the Tsilhqot'in Nation in defence of these lands regardless of the decision made by the Federal Government.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Caution the Federal Government that approval of the proposed Prosperity Gold-Copper Mine, despite the clear warnings of its independent Panel, would demonstrate utter disregard for the survival of First Nations as distinctive cultures within Canada.
5. Direct the National Chief and Assembly of First Nations to advocate on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation and communicate the clear support of Chiefs-in-Assembly.

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