

Spring 2015

# Lexéy'em

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TTES Housing department and Chief and Council proudly announce the home builds in partnership with AANDC for completion this fiscal year. If you have any questions or comments or would like to support and be a part of future initiatives please contact the Your Housing Department @ 828-9719.



**Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc**  
WITH TEAMWORK WE CREATE ACTION AND PRIDE



# Upcoming Community Events

September 22 - GBM/SSN Community Forum

September 26 - Nominations

October 13 - SSN Community Forum

October 20 - SSN Community Forum

October 31 - All Candidates Forum

November 7 - Advanced Polls

November 14 - Polling Day

November 14 - TteS Membership Code Referendum

November 16 - Swearing in Ceremony

Get get more information and to view Posters please visit [Our Events Page](#)



**CHIEF SHANE GOTTFRIEDSON**

Primary: Business Development  
Primary: Public Relations & External Affairs  
Secondary: Day Scholars  
Backup: All Council



**COUNCILLOR ED JENSEN**

Primary: Education  
Secondary: Natural Resources  
Backup: All Council



**COUNCILLOR RICHARD JULES**

Primary: Lands, Leasing & Taxation  
Secondary: Social Development  
Backup: All Council



**COUNCILLOR KATY GOTTFRIEDSON**

Primary: Shared Services/Day Scholars  
Secondary: Education  
Backup: All Council



**COUNCILLOR JEANNETTE JULES**

Primary: Natural Resources/Legal  
Secondary: Land's, Leasing & Taxation  
Backup: All Council



**COUNCILLOR COLLEEN MOSTERD-MCLEAN**

Primary: Social Development  
Secondary: Shared Services/Day Scholars  
Backup: All Council



**COUNCILLOR FRED SEYMOUR**

Primary: Planning and Engineering  
Secondary: Housing/Business Development  
Backup: All Council



**COUNCILLOR ROSANNE CASIMIR**

Primary: Housing  
Secondary: Planning and Engineering  
Backup: All Council

# Chief Shane Gottfriedson

## *Primary Portfolio Business Development*



Weyt-kp!

The last three months have been a season of change for our people, our community, and me personally.

First and foremost, First Nations people across Canada have the Tk'emlúps and Sechelt Bands to thank for standing up for our Day Scholars. Working together we made some history by winning certification for our day scholars class action suit against Canada.

This is a victory for the innocent victims, and for all families who have suffered the devastating effects of residential school abuse it is an incredible moment in our history for our people. When I think back when we started the case and the moment when our council decided we had to stand up for those who had been victimized, I am proud to state that we never looked back.

As all of you know our oath of office directs us to fight for our title and rights and we will not back down from that duty. Our next steps in the case is to go for a hearing and talk about areas of possible settlement. I can't endanger any agreement between Canada and our people by reporting publicly and I have agreed to respect the legal process going forward.

We had one community session right after the decision was made and it was the first time we had a special assembly on a Friday. I was pleased to see a fairly decent turn out. It was a difficult and emotional time for many, but I think we all agree it is an important topic to visit and for our people to share and look for hope.

With the close of another school year it is time to pass along congratulations to all the graduating students of 2015. Your future is bright and you should know our whole community shares in your success. I hope all graduates view high school graduation as a milestone and not a finish line. I encourage you to continue on to post-secondary education but more importantly, may you continue to live your dreams.

To the little ones continuing on your path of learning, enjoy your summer, may you continue to let our spirit grow to greatness. Thanks to all the parents for always supporting your children in schooling, it's important for them as they develop. I was told the most critical time for children's development is when they are at grade 3. They are most like to have success if they learn to read and write by grade 3. So please parents, over the summer keep your kids reading, writing and developing, if it's only 30 minutes a day.

Continuing with education I would like to thank Principal Garry Gottfriedson for his service at Sk'elep School of Excellence and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavours. All the staff at the school thank you as well. I am looking forward to both new and familiar faces when school resumes in the Fall. I hope our students have a great summer.

Our land claims file has been quiet with Canada, due in part, to a looming federal election. I expect to see some





movement when a new government starts work in the Fall. Not much to report out at this time.

Our SSN has been busy with our continuing partnership with New Gold as well as keeping our succession and management issues alive and well. Regarding AJAX, we announced a declaration over the property with our strength of claim to the territory. As many of you know the last year and a half we did a cultural heritage study over the area. The report came back very positively in relation to what we already knew within our history going back to our creation. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with membership in detail over our findings in the next little while. We look forward to your input in the process as the impacts on the land and water needs your attention. If you require any information, Len Jackson at SSN and/or Jeanette Jules will give you whatever information you request within legal means.

We have other pressing issues on our plate. These include housing, education, and child welfare. Of course, we will never forget and never abandon the missing and murdered women's file, as we continue to make this a top priority. Our title and treaty rights will be the focus on the Tsilhqot'in decision and post work with the leadership council.

A friendly reminder that the fires and the heat wave is upon us and we need to always be mindful of our resources. I think back 12 summers ago when we lost all our wood on Strawberry Hill. It was a disaster! The silver lining of that terrible time was how many of our people helped one another. If you find it in your heart to help other nations who lost pos-

sessions or homes in fires around BC or Canada, we will take donations to help out whoever we can. It's what we do, support and help; it's the Indian way. I know other Nations helped us when the chips were down. Thanks to all the firefighters doing their service. Keep up the good work and be safe.

My duties attending the Assembly of First Nations AGA meant I had to miss the elders gathering in Victoria this year. I hope our elders had fun thanks to the host Nations for showing your leadership and hospitality. Moments like that are important for our people, especially those with the wisdom the passing years bring.

Roseanne Casimir carried the proxy on behalf of the community and it was good to see some of the other council members there as well. It was my first general Assembly as Regional Chief of BC, a position I was very honoured and humbled to win on the first ballot with 55% of the vote.

We are in an incredible time! As many of you know, I worked hard to win his election as it's not an easy one to win. There are so many people I need to thank and I apologize in advance if I miss somebody.

I would like to start off by thanking the membership for your support the last 12 years in my leadership as your Chief. Of course I am grateful to my council members and to my nominators; but first and foremost I thank all my family, especially Zena and the kids for always standing beside me. My work requires my family to make sacrifices and they have always been there for me. There are more sacrifices to come, and I pledge to do my best for our people throughout the Province.

Our message to our brothers and sisters in the Bands around BC was simple. We need to focus on creating a better quality of life for our people, one that is a community driven, Nation approach. My travels in the province revealed both successful and struggling organizations. We know too well that the federal transfers over the years have fallen far behind inflation and not been adjusted to reflect our increased population. This has stretched many of our best program providers to the breaking point.

We need to make aboriginal voices matter in this coming Federal election and put our issues front and centre in election campaigns. Please register to vote in the federal election and if you have an ID issue ask for the help. I'm not advocating for any particular party, I just urge you all to vote. Voting was a hard fought for and long denied right, to our people. We have only had full voting rights since 1960 and were the last people in Canada to get the right to vote. It would be a shame to waste the power of our ballot.

My new role as regional chief does not mean I will be moving to Vancouver. We are putting a business case to move the office to Kamloops. As always, I'm only a phone call or an email away for anyone who needs my help. My term ends in November and while I will not be seeking re-election I will finish out my mandate as chief. This means additional work for the coming months and it will be no easy task. I thank all of you for your patience as we go through transition. That said, I'm still 24-7 for whoever needs me; if I don't answer my phone, text me at 250-318-8527.

My role as regional chief will help in advancing not only our community's interest, but other communities and nations as well. I look forward to the challenges ahead working with the National Chief and other Regional Chiefs to address and help close the gaps across the country.

All my relations  
Kúkpi7 Shane Gottfriedson





# Councillor Rosanne Casimir

## *Primary Portfolio Housing*

Weytk-kp Xwexwe'tep,

It is an honor to be representing our community and working for all of you! I would like to start off by thanking our cultural teachers for starting the Summer Solstice June 2015 off right with a smudge ceremony. It opens our hearts and minds to the great things we will accomplish as leaders for our people and our community and respecting another seasonal cycle.

Looking at the past fiscal year reflecting, we have maintained the status quo of being very reserved in spending in all housing areas and somewhat throughout the organization. But most notably we are achieving the goal of being able to provide 10 new homes for membership, so there are a lot of exciting opportunities within the housing department. Membership is encouraged to contact the housing department to determine your eligibility and how to become eligible for the new housing opportunity.



As the housing portfolio I continue to support and empower our housing manager to maintain the plan supported and endorsed by all council to ensure that we all pull together and continue to mitigate losses and collect arrears - our community's money, our community's cash. Strong governance and fully implemented policies will ensure that there will be no losses with all new housing initiatives.

Message for all the Grads of 2015

Graduation for parents is a time that that we scream with pride and we honor all of you the Grads of 2015, our future generation!

The path to success is full of challenges, but today you can say that you persevered and that you made it! So enjoy your wonderful achievement and celebrate another milestone in your lives, and be grateful for your parents who encouraged, supported or coerced you into doing your homework, and keeping you on track, for the teachers who provided guidance and structured timelines, and your friends for always being there, helping you along the way.

So congratulations and may your futures be filled with many successes and happy tomorrows and congratulations on all your wonderful achievements, for all of you, the grads of 2015!

Always dream and dream big! And know that dreams don't work unless you do! To a future of higher learning, great achievements and great academic endeavors!

### **MEETINGS ATTENDED**

- Council meetings on Tuesdays
- Finance
- KIBDC
- MPC
- Spyulleye7e Ranch Meeting
- Housing Department Meetings

- Policy
- MRP (Matrimonial Real Property)
- SSN Open House
- Communities in Bloom Planter Competition
- Esket Unity Meeting
- Reclamation at Jacko Lake



For this report I will review the information document on TteS's MRP Law that is up for Referendum June 30, an overview of meetings at our unity meetings within Secwepemc'ul'ew . I will also share photos and comments from membership on some of the housing renovations that took place this past year. Also provide an update on the Day Scholars Class Action and conclude report with a message to our Chief as he moves up the political ladder.

#### **Upcoming MRP Law Referendum Vote June 30, 2015**

This is a very exciting time for us at TteS and for Membership as we have worked together in a good way to create a document that we can call our own, our own Matrimonial Real Property Law. In creating this law we have taken no easy corners:

- Proactively done our homework,
- Sought the necessary training to be able to pull this law together,
- Encourage community members to be a part of a working group that's goal was to ensure that our collective interests were met,
- Successfully seek funding to meet the financial

needs of fulfilling the legal requirements,

- Ensuring that the law did not violate anyone's interest under the charter of rights and freedoms, and privacy laws
- Ensuring that our current laws and policies within Housing and Lands Departments were supported and or enhanced
- Fulfilled AANDC (INAC) (Indian Affairs) referendum laws in which we are still bound by
- Enacting our law making authority under Bill S-2 to create our own law

The information document can be found on the website and is downloadable, upon request one can be mailed to you. All off reserve band members have been mailed a complete package that includes the information document, a copy of the proposed law as well as a MAIL IN BALLOT.

Please note that July 30, 2015 we ask that you come out and vote at Skelep School located on Powwow Trail and support TteS (Kamloops Indian Band) Matrimonial Real Property Law and cast your BALLOT!

#### **What is the TteS Matrimonial Real Property Law and why is it important to each of us?**

It deals with the division of Matrimonial Real Property (house and land) and the compensation component upon relationship breakdown and or death.

#### **Summary of the Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests Rights Act**

Family Homes on Reserves and Matrimonial Interests Rights Act came into force December 16, 2014 which means that many of the legal protections relating to Matrimonial Property are now legislated in the Annotated Indian Act, 2015. We are now bound by those set of rules. Examples of those rules include but not limited to:

1. Full consent on the sale or relinquishment of a home by the other spouse or common-law partner including the proceeds of that sale.
2. Either spouse cannot kick the other one out of the family home.
3. Where domestic violence is concerned a court can now order one spouse or common-law partner to leave the house for a specified period of time.



4. In the event of death if the spouse and or common-law partner survivor is not a band member they will have a right to occupy the home for 180 days and may apply to the court for an extended period of time.
5. TteS and or its members have no authority or delegated authority to make any minor amendments to the law as set out in the Indian Act.

Why did we at Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc create our own law? To enact our jurisdictional powers by closing that legislative gap within the federal and provisional rules that we are now bound by since December 16, 2014 and was created without our communities input. We have the opportunity to approve our own law that will supersede the one that has been legislated and that recognizes and reflects who we as TteS (KIB) band members are and respecting our traditions and cultural values by incorporating and respecting our current laws.

In addition, it will clarify the mechanism for the disposition of matrimonial real property on our reserve following a marital breakdown, and or death of a spouse for the Band to assist Band Members.

Please note that in all instances the Band Council, working group, and all employees of the Band, including legal counsel have a duty to act honestly and in good faith and in the best interests of the Band in connection with the carrying out the duties and responsibilities with the creation of the Matrimonial Real Property Law with the collective interests first and foremost.

### **Notable Benefits of Creating our own Matrimonial Real Property Law**

1. Funding is in place to cover the referendum set for July 30, 2015.
2. We collectively decide a fair process that is shared commonly to ensure that both spouses are treated fairly to ensure that the collective interests are in the wellbeing of our children.
3. We assert our existing aboriginal right and create and adopt our law that we collectively agree that respects our culture, identity, and the relationship that we have to the land.
4. We as a first nation have always acknowledged our inherent right to self-government and have created and maintained our own laws.
5. We collectively can decide if we as a community acknowledge a common-law relationship to be a year.

Time limits are to prevent the other spouse injury of any delay and also to acknowledge that that time frame does not allow courts to late claims from previous spouses and or former common law spouses and determining a period as recognized as divorced and separated by specific period of time for healing and transition.

6. Although the MRP law cannot address wills and estates we as a community can respect domestic contracts (also known as any agreement made before, during the relation or as a separation agreement) and acknowledge the occupation of the family home as per the family and at the same time protect the certainty of title to the land and not be greater than that of life estate if it is recognized collectively and with the exception where private agreements are not enforceable where it is grossly unfair or unconscionable where deceit or intimidation is used.
7. Council may make minor amendments to the TteS MRP Law by BCR and any substantive amendments must get approval of the membership as set out in the law.
8. Enforcement and respect for a written agreement by way of a domestic contract. (Please see diagram on next page).

The vote would be 25% of eligible TteS (KIB) Band Member voters to approve the law. The law will then be in force once it has been approved by the TteS (KIB) membership at the ratification vote. Notice will then be sent to AANDC (INAC) along with a copy that will be posted on their website and notice will also be sent to the Attorney General. Please note there is no need for the Minister's approval, this will be our law.

I would like to again thank the working group for all their help and assistance and commitment to the creation of TteS's MRP, TteS's Special Projects Manager, TteS Admin staff, and membership for participating in the community meetings to ensure and participate in our collective interests of the law that we will be endorsing together on July 30, 2015.

Please support this very important document and cast your vote to the following ballot question:

"Do you approve of the adoption and enactment of the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Matrimonial Real Property Law, dated June 1, 2015?"

### **Tsilhqot'in Decision and the Reclamation of JACKO LAKE**

The importance of exploring the Tsilhqot'in court case within the scope of Title and Rights changes and effects all discus-



sions with industry and how we do business regarding resource rights. Why? Because it now recognizes that we as First Nations have aboriginal title to land, hence our rights to decide what the best use is made of the land and waters and that aboriginal title does exist which includes ownership and that all negotiations must be dealt with fairly and honorably in a manner respecting our rights as stewards of our lands.

Skeetchestn and Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc made a political declaration with many witnesses in attendance. Several other FN leaders, community members, and many non - First Nations, as well as many fishermen attended to support and witness our reclamation at Jacko Lake also known as Pipsell. We don't want to see this lake destroyed.

The lake is located in the vicinity of the proposed AJAX Mine project. The Province has already recognized that the proposed mine could have serious impacts on our Aboriginal interests, so therefore, we put the province and federal government on notice and publicly declared our aboriginal rights and title to the area to prevent harm and risk to the land and to Pipsell (Jacko Lake). We know they are planning to submit their permit and we will not be omitted in the decision-making process and we do have power and jurisdiction on how our land is to be used and preserved for our future generations.

### Day Scholars Class Action

It has been an exciting and long legal haul since we first signed the Day Scholar Class Action on behalf of our Band Members here on TteS (Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc) back in 2010 seeking reclamation and now in April of 2015 to Celebrating in June 2015 Judge Harrington Cer-

tifying the Day Scholars Initiative.

### What does that mean?

It means that the judge certified the class action to include the survivor class, the descendant class, and the band class covering every Day Scholar in Canada from 1920-1997 and that every day scholar who attended one of the IRS in the Settlement agreement are part of the Class unless they opt out. Canada may appeal and drag out legal arguments against our claim. In Kamloops there are estimated 196 day scholars at KIRS.

I wanted to acknowledge Joanne Gottfriedson for staying with us start to finish on these proceedings. Her commitment, and determination to see this through on behalf of our members with full support of council and she has so diligently strived to encourage other first nations to join us in this pursuit and has travelled across Canada seeking that support and recruitment and along the way has gained so much support and making history for our people, thank you for standing up for all of us in our shared





endeavor to assist our people to reconciliation. Picture of Diena and Charlotte Sechelt

### Housing

In addition to the exciting times in housing with new houses of up to 10 new homes and the first to be built for more than 13 years. I also wanted to share some pictures and comments from a few band members on their renovations. To me it is about Pride and Acknowledgement for the homeowner and the housing department and the great lengths of service they provide for the community.

Greg says that he is very happy with the work that was done at his house and appreciates everyone who helped.



"Now as long as I have my Ichiban I am happy."

Eli loves that he got his roof and deck worked on and thanked the department for finding the funding and he said. "My grandparents love the new roof too."

Darlene boasted with pride in her home and so proud of the work that was done, she did not want to be in the picture but says she loves the work and huge thanks to the housing department for finding the funding to do the work, She says, "it makes a huge difference, love the new stairs and can't wait to do flower baskets, plant tomatoes, sit and relax and shop for deck furniture."

### Communities in Bloom

Last participated in 2013 and this year I was appointed by the table to participate in the 2015 Planter completion with Kamloops Communities in Bloom. The theme is "Water" so all the plants in the planter that can be found downtown Kamloops located close to RBC. The City's professional I was teamed up with was Erin, and she has also created a salmon piece that will be placed within the water themed planter as we get closer to the official Judging day. We were in a team of 4 as seen in the picture. The purpose of this annual competition is to involve City Council, members and businesses, and a representative from TteS to create beautiful planters to enhance public spaces.

I will continue to work for all of you and our future generations and always respecting our language, our culture, and our people.

It is important to me to have balance in my life always ensuring that I am being the best that I can be, always remembering who I am, where I came from, and how I got to where I am at.

I believe in myself, our community, and our people!

Kukstemc,  
Kwenmipele7 Rosanne Casimir

Note to Chief Shane as he moves on up the Political Ladder. Thank you for the leadership you provided in the last 12 years. It does seem like the end of an era but know that you will remain a very big part of TteS. Christian Larson wrote, "Believe in yourself and all that you are, know that there is something inside you that is greater than any obstacle!" You are a pillar of strength and courage and determination, those traits truly guide you, and your passion to succeed has always driven you! Kukstemc and wishing you all the success you deserve.

# Councillor

## Colleen Mosterd-McLean

### *Primary Portfolio Social Development*

Weyt-kp xwexwéyep. Greetings to all.

Summer is here and there are some very hot topics for membership to know. A few of which are the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Membership Code, the Matrimonial Real Property Law, the recent Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report on Residential Schools and our Day Scholars class action lawsuit.

Firstly, the Council is committed to presenting the membership with a new revised TteS Membership Code for a referendum vote this coming November. We have made a lot of progress in getting input from membership and I am very pleased to report that I have had input from over 150 band members so far with regards to the Membership Code. The interactive focus forums provided the opportunity for small group conversation and constructive feedback to the larger group. I will now work with our consultant, James Mills to compile your suggestions into a new draft. The new draft will be made available for your review as soon as it is completed. This is our opportunity to occupy the jurisdiction over determining our membership and move away from the federal government's control so please don't miss the opportunity to be a part of this very important process as we move closer toward sovereignty.

Secondly, the referendum vote for the Matrimonial Real Property Law is set for July 30th so be sure to cast your vote.

Thirdly, on June 2nd, the Final Report for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was released and recommendations were put forward to address the "Cultural Genocide" that occurred as a result of Residential Schools. A full report can be found on the following website: [www.trc.ca](http://www.trc.ca). Congratulations to the Day Scholars Executive and Plaintiffs for achieving certification and moving forward in the legal battle against Canada for justice for Day Scholars. I would like to take this opportunity to say how proud and thankful I am of the courage and strength that lies within all of our former Day Scholar and Residential School students. Your stories

are a testimony to how strong and determined you are to persevere and make the Government of Canada accountable for its despicable policies so history does not repeat itself. My mom, Marlene Jensen attended KIRS for 11 years and I know some of her experiences at the

school were not easy and even if her school experience had been wonderful and free of harm and oppression, the truth is she was not given the opportunity to be raised by her own parents, in her own community, learning her own culture and her own language. This truth has impacted our community in so many negative ways. The good news is that we are moving forward. We are healing and we are here to support our members who need us. We are a strong people. On behalf of my family and in the memory of my mom, I thank you, Day Scholars and Residential School Survivors for standing tall and soldiering on. May you be blessed for your courage and find peace in a closed chapter in our history that never should have been written.

Enjoy your summer and stay involved. Change and progress cannot happen without you steering the canoe.

I wish you all a safe and memorable summer spent with family and friends. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

On April 9th, QHS hosted a fantastic "Baby Welcome" celebration and here are a few pictures from the night. Thank you to all who attended.





# Councillor Ed Jensen

## *Primary Portfolio Education*



Weyktp, Peslléwten (April), translated into semé7stin means “snow melts month” For this year however, that seemed to happen in March and we are well into an early summer now.

The berries are already ripening in the hills! The rivers are also way above seasonal norms and rose

quite early this year. What that means for the remainder of the year is an unknown for me, as this is the first time I have seen this happen. I guess we will see. Traditionally, Secwépemc would begin the migration to traditional gathering places and the first of the new plants are harvested. Tree roots and bark were gathered for making baskets and hunters and fishermen would begin to seek out fresh forms of protein in the rivers, creeks and lower hills.

We had another great weekend this year, for all of those who attended the fishing school. The March 14th and 15th school on the South Thompson River again saw some beauty rainbows landed by eager to learn students. Both days had reasonable weather and the fishing was just as good. On Saturday, Gayle Frank’s son, Jeremy Isaac, had a stellar afternoon landing a few lunkers. Sunday’s star was Jayla Bottle, who stole the show with a large trout and a great fish eye eating display! A great big Kukstemc to Aaron Camille, Versal Camille, Nacoma George and all those who attended this year to get yourselves and your kids out on the land for some healthy activity, to showcase our rights and title and for creating a lifetime bond between our natural resources and our youth.

Everyone enjoyed a couple of great days on the river and learned some nifty tricks to employ two weekends later at

the 11th Annual Jazzman Derby held on March 29th. I am proud to say that several past Fishing School Graduates again, had fish to enter at the awards ceremony at MSG that afternoon. Another Kukstemc to Aaron, Nacoma, Eagle Casimir, Tim Jensen, Versal Camille, Shane Vincenzi, Taylor Jensen, Jana Chouinard, Randy Keehn, Carrie Dan, Jaimie Collins, the Lefarge Crew and Shirley..... for your commitment and hard work up to and on derby day. Also thanks to Sandra Seymour and the staff at TteS Social Development, Chief and Council, Rona/Revy, Fountain Tire, Surplus Herbies, and Wholesale Sports for your generous donations.

On April 12th, all of Chief and Council and a number of member plaintiffs made our way to Vancouver to attend the week long Certification of the Day Scholar Class Action in Federal Court. The argument to certify the evidence to proceed with a potential trial against Canada was a long, draining experience for both parties. Our fight to seek out justice to this point has been arduous and not over yet. It is expected that Justice Harrington will have his work done in reaching a decision in around six weeks but speculation is that he may not hand this down until September of this year. The direction of the case is leading towards a remedy to satisfy our needs to reconcile loss of language and culture. “The harm goes deeper than physical or sexual abuse,” Peter Grant, Council for the Plaintiffs, told the court in his opening remarks.

“As Prime Minister (Stephen) Harper said in the apology, the legacy of the residential schools is one of the losses of entire cultures. Language is no longer spoken, people broken and unable to celebrate their heritage.” “These deeper harms affect all aboriginal children, not just those who were in residence, all of those who were in the schools.” He said the honour of the Crown is at stake when it comes to fulfilling its legal obligation within the reconciliation framework.

Chief and Council has also wrapped up our Strategic Planning process for this year and continue to work towards

efficiencies and accountability within the organization that is realistic and simplistic and strives to improve quality of life for membership. Corporate objectives include: serving membership, financial management, protecting community assets, fulfilling legal responsibilities, proper business planning, community involvement and unity, service delivery in the areas of employment, education, housing etc, and creation of more cultural land based events. This year's plan closely mirrors work done in the past with Comprehensive Community Planning. This brings to mind the fact that this project is also been revitalized and due for completion of a draft later on this year with Dessa Gottfriedson leading this initiative.

In February of this year, the South Thompson Wildlife Stewardship Committee (STWSC) met to wrap up loose ends and formally close the pilot project. Discussion centered around projects that have been completed such as invasive plant control, sheep habitat improvements, water hole improvements etc, and also around future projects such as eagle aerie's, road deactivation, sheep collaring and further stewardship activities. All of which were funded through previous sheep hunts conducted within TteS territories. We also talked about future opportunities in this realm and possibilities of Guide Outfitter status for the band.

A great deal of work is in progress in relationship to title and rights, particularly in and around Jacko Lake. We visited the site on three occasions in May to observe the spring fishery but had no success this year due to management practices employed by the Province and DFO geared towards the sport fishery and local ranching. We are putting pressure on the various Ministries involved to change this here and at other locations within our traditional use territory with the outcome being a revitalized spring fishery and increased access with a focus on Secwepemc Rights. To date, we have been met with reluctance from KGHM-Ajax in regards to access but also with a degree of cooperation from both levels of Government. The future looks good in terms of co-management and decision making with this very fundamental right in mind.

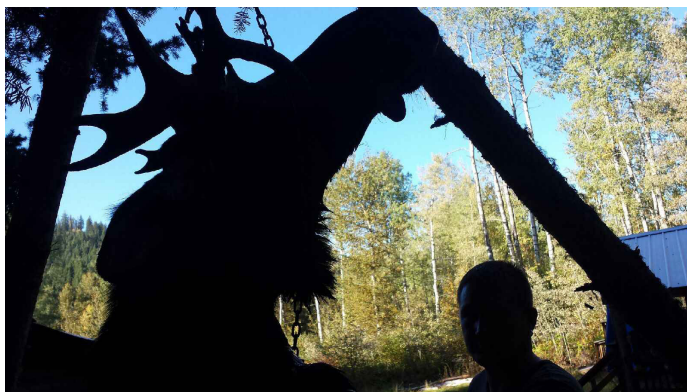
Based on a visit of a representative from the BC Ministry of Education on March 12th, a number of missing policies were identified as needed at Sk'elep School. As a result, a sub-committee of the School Board was established and are currently working on the following policies: Appeal Policy, Anaphylaxis Policy, Supervision Policy, Bullying

Policy, and a Special Education Policy. These will all be in place for the next school year. Teacher contracts were successfully negotiated by mid-June and it will be business as usual for the upcoming 2015/16 school year. The School Board is looking forward to working with school staff in invigorating culture and language programming and continuing a respectful and communicative relationship with the best interests of the children and community in mind.

On May 13th, Nacoma George and I had the great pleasure of giving a fish snaring demonstration to the children of Little Fawn Nursery. We gathered there just in time to harvest during the spring spawning ritual of the rainbow trout. Along with the kids, we pulled about 20 fish out of the creek and then smoked them. It was a great day and a great experience for all of those in attendance. On June 3rd we were out on the land again, this time on Schiedam Flats for our annual Sage picking day. Thank you again Jessica, for giving me the opportunity to have these great days with the kids. June 17th was the big day for the kids as they earned their certificates and celebrated their Grad. The Little Fawn Nursery has registered children for the 2015-16 school years. Early registration was encouraged to ensure adequate space availability. Contact: Jessica Arnouse at 250-828-9734 or [jessica.arnouse@kib.ca](mailto:jessica.arnouse@kib.ca) for further information.

To all of our Graduates in all levels of Education, Congratulations and Good Luck in all of your future endeavors. You have earned your accomplishments and we are all very proud of you.

Health and Happiness to all.  
Until next time.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Ed Jensen, Councilor, Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc, [ejensen@kib.ca](mailto:ejensen@kib.ca) , 250-819-3343

Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation implement its own Assessment Process for the proposed Ajax Project

Kamloops, BC, September 10, 2015

Stk'emlupsemc of the Secwepemc Nation have approved their Project Assessment Process and Plan for the proposed KGHM Ajax Copper-Gold Project near Kamloops, BC. On June 21, 2015 following the Province's revision to their assessment and conclusions that SSN have high prima facie for both Title and Rights, SSN declared Title at Pípsell with a landmark document. This document declared, [*Re Stk'emlupsemc w7ec te tsyecwminst.ses re Pípsell*] The Stk'emlupsemc who are the caretakers of Jacko Lake & area and our project assessment will respect their Aboriginal Rights and Title (ownership) to the lands and resources and include decision- making power (jurisdiction) on how the land is to be used and preserved for future generations.

SSN have moved beyond the strength of claim to the pre-declaration stage identified in the *Tsilhqot'in* decision for Title and Rights. SSN have given notice to the government that this project cannot be assessed using the same consultation based status quo Environmental Assessment methods and process, and assumptions. The SSN like others have been requesting an Independent Review Panel process for the assessment of the Ajax Mine Project. This level of review continues to be denied and has prompted the development of the SSN project assessment process.

The SSN project assessment process will run alongside, and where appropriate, collaboratively with the Environmental Assessment Process (BCEAO & CEAA). SSN's process is inclusive rather than exclusive and assesses the project using SSN laws and governance which includes assessments which respect SSN cultural perspectives, knowledge & history. SSN's process is comprised of several components such as independent expert reviews, community information sessions, the SSN Review Panel Hearing and SSN assessments designed to review and assess both tangible and intangible impacts of the project such as those impacts of a cultural and spiritual nature. The SSN Review Panel will include Chief and Councils, family appointed representatives, elders, youth and knowledge keepers who will be involved throughout the process and who will sit for a week to hear evidence before deliberating and making their decisions regarding the proposed project.

The purpose of the SSN assessment process is to: "Facilitate informed decision making by the SSN Communities in a manner which is consistent with our laws, traditions, and customs and assesses project impacts in a way that respects our knowledge and perspectives". The process will result in an SSN Decision Package which will be included in the EAO's package to the Ministers. Recently in a presentation to Thompson Rivers University Law students at Pípsell Tk'emlups Councilor Ed Jensen articulated, "we are challenging BC's current 'consultation' assessment model with one based on our full informed consent."



# Councillor Fred Seymour

## *Primary Portfolio Planning and Engineering*

Fred Seymour, Planning & Engineering Portfolio

As you are all aware of the increased traffic throughout the Reserve, it is because of the work that is been done on the Overlander Bridge for the coming months. On the City of Kamloops website they have a Camera and a Weekly Traffic Report during construction.

The Band is concerned about the wellbeing of it's members and have brought it up at various meetings with the City of Kamloops, MoTI, and the Rural RCMP. Safety is paramount, for all who use the local roads on a daily basis. We are doing our best to keep activity to a minimum, but at times there will be an increase in traffic in certain routes due to accidents, etc.

The Tk'emlups te Secwepemc will be part of the New Gold Afton Mine Tailing Pond Project this year and has contracted with BA Dawon's subsidiary Eagle Rock to supply and haul gravel as part of this project.

First off, condolences out to the families that have lost a loved one since our last report. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of need. You can never prepare yourself for this.

Secondly, a big congratulations to all the families that had a new addition to their families. The new born make everyone so proud. Only you can put into words the smell of newborn babies. Oh, the smell or scent they have. Also, to all the students out there as school will be out in 2 months. Hang in there as education is so important in this day and age.

All of the Seasonal Workers are back now. The North ARDA is now up and running, as this system is so old all of the original pumps and equipment that run this irrigation system are outdated and they do not make any parts for it any longer. There will be a new pump installed this year. It is a high maintenance system to run. Anyways hope you can get three good crops of hay off your fields this year.

The East side irrigation system also up and running, again, for all the members and hope for you all get three good crops of hay too and a garden(s) that will produce award winning vegetables.

With that being said, there might be a possibility of us getting a farmers market at the Powwow grounds parking Lot. It is not done deal yet. But that is not stopping us from doing our own.

With the Historic St. Joseph's Church we are looking at acquiring additional funding from Heritage BC Legacy Fund to replace the existing roof which is rotten and needs to be replaced to protect the overall structure from decay. Also, we are in the midst of starting up the exterior painting program continued from last year. The lead paint is very thick and difficult to take off. All necessary precautions are taken to prevent exposure to all the Band members who



work(ed) on it. There are a few doors that have been replaced and upgraded to accommodate the current BC Building Code specifications, etc.

The project will be funded through our Planning & Engineering budget and matched funds were through Canadian National Railway (CNR). As were the previous years and a hats off to C. N. Railway for their funding contribution. We are continually looking for other outside funding sources to offset these costs.

The C.L.C. is the old Residential School; we are doing what we can with our budget that we put forth annually. It will come together at the end. We are looking at a renovation at the old Chapel. Looking at the lighting, the flooring, windows, touch up the painting. Also, the Front Entrance, the list is endless. We have to start somewhere a little TLC goes a long way. As we are continuing on again this with replacing some of the existing doors that need to be replaced due to its current condition, it will be an on-going activity until all the doors are completed over the next few years.

There is so much happening here at TteS as you read the other reports put forth by my colleagues. Hope, you take the time to read them. With that being said, hope you all are preparing for the winter months.

I will leave it at that for now. Stop by for coffee and share some stories & knowledge that you all have to offer.  
Yours' in Friendship





# Councillor Richard Jules

## *Primary Portfolio Lands, Leasing and Taxation*



It seems like only yesterday that there was a time limited to get out reports in, now it's already tomorrow.

We finished our strat planning in mid February and we have a good handle on this coming years spending and things that can be done.

The Band Farm is back in production again! Yay! The band, along with Joey Bejard is working on a partnership to get the old band farm producing hops! The Okanagan has its wine, we'll have Beer.

I'm presently working with Trevor Kempthorne to look at the possibility of starting a cannery. We will need a cannery here if we start a co-op and start selling our produce, of course we can also barter amongst ourselves for what we plant but, it would be nice to barter with our neighbors. Its too bad that the canneries that once were here in Kamloops, Ashcroft and Vernon were shut down, then again it might not be so bas. It will get us up off our butts and working to build our own cannery! Plus feed ourselves instead of waiting for produce trucks from California or Mexico.

The Douglas reserve initiative is still on the books. The Federal Government. has not come up with any mandate yet! It's been a long time, but I feel we are closer than ever before on reaching an agreement with both Governments. Then band is looking to capture the full F.N.G.S.T at present we collect \$1.6 million out of approximately \$ 6 million annually. The taxes that we collect are called "FAT TAXES" – Fuel, Alcohol. Tobacco

By collecting all the F.N.G.S.T the band will be able to add top medical expenses, recreation fees, elder's trips, no more waiting lists for education or language dollars to keep our language alive.

The Band and Skeetchestn have established a resource Tax through SSN. Yay! Best news I have ever heard. Now the nation building can really begin

There is on going research on our section 35 roads on the rez. There are a lot of roads and different things happened to these roads, such as widening and straightening out the corners. Some roads were abandoned but the province used them at one time. Almost all the highways are on old Indian trails. That is all that I can say for now.

Councillor Richard "Rick" Jules



# Councillor Jeannette Jules

## *Primary Portfolio Natural Resources/Legal*



Stk'emlúpsmc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN) – What and who is SSN S t k ' e m l ú p s e m c Campfire , (the Kamloops Division) of the Secwepemcúl'ecw (Secwépemc Nation), consists of two remaining communities Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc and Skeetchestn Indian Band that have joint ab-

After contact with Europeans, epidemics wiped out a number of communities of the original Stk'emlúpsmc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN) (Kamloops Division), and the community of Skeetchestn relocated from Savona into the Deadman Valley.

When the Indian band and Indian reserve system were set up, the people of the SSN were separated into two reserve communities: Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (TteS) and Skeetchestn (SIB).

- Sk'emqinemx – includes other villages at:
- Monte Creek - Sts'xwum
- Rivershore - Tseck'ucwtsín
- Tranquille Creek- Spelemtsín
- McLure Flats - Cyensqin
- Cherry Creek- Legtúpe7

original interests and title and rights to our traditional territory signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2007 for the conservation, negotiations, and management of resources on our territory.

"The Stk'emlúpsmc of the Secwepemc Nation has held the Traditional Territory since time immemorial. It is an area running approximately from, in the north, the headwaters of the Bonaparte Lake to the area of Stump Lake to the Highland Valley, in the south, from the area of Lions Head, in the east, to Wallachin, in the west encompassing all the mountains, alpine and the meadows, riverine valleys and interior plateau area within the Southern Secwépemc Territories of what is now British Columbia". (Taken from the Resource Sharing Protocol between TteS & SIB)

At one time we were made up of many different campfires in our history and our campfire stories talked about one nation. The 32 different campfires that existed historically and the 7 Campfires (divisions) of our Nation were very strong. With the evolution of time our nation started looking at community based interests and separation knows as Indian Bands. So today we are going back to our roots and reuniting our campfires by building protocols with our neighboring tribes working towards 4 key areas: Co-Management, Shared Decision Making, Resource Revenue Sharing & Partnerships

All of these belonged to the Campfire (division), Stk'emlúpsmc.

In 2006, the 6 Mile Ranch was bought to be converted to the new community of Tobiano. Because the 6 Mile Ranch project impacts the aboriginal interests of both TteS and SIB, the 2 bands challenged the project and got an out-





Stk'emlúps te Secwepemcúl'ecw – Kamloops Shuswap Territory, and to defend Secwépemc aboriginal title & rights within Stk'emlúpssemcúl'ecw.

SSN negotiated an agreement with New Gold Inc. to ensure that TteS & SIB get a share of economic benefits from the New Afton Mine. TteS & SIB collaboratively negotiated a participation agreement with New Gold Mine, previously known as Afton Mine in their shared traditional territory. The participation agreement calls for action from both the First Nations and industry partners citing, among other things, preferred contracting rights to the First Nations through a newly registered corporation owned by the SSN, called Stk'emlúpssemc Enterprises Inc. (SEI). This is because of our collective Title and Rights of all of our members.

This agreement ensures that TteS & SIB get a share of economic benefits from the New Afton Mine. Under this agreement, TteS & SIB have preferred contractor status, preferred hiring status, and SSN will get a share of profits. The other huge component is the Human Resource capacity where we did partnered with BC AMTA (this partnership was a huge success), our education staff looking at the trades & training component working with Thompson Rivers University, New Gold, The Province of British Columbia and our communities maximizing our Human Resource Capacity engaging in all aspects of the mining corporation from security, transportation, exploration and construction. SSN currently has contract partnerships with: Arrow trucking, Western Protection Alliance Security, A&T Mamook, IPH, TNT Maintenance.

As you can see our agreement is truly revolutionizing participation and partnerships creating economic opportunities off of our land and our resources and we are in control of the process.

#### **Stk'emlúpssemc has a political side and economic side to its structure.**

- On the political side the 2 Band Councils meet bi-monthly as the Joint Chief and Council, and there is also monthly Executive Committee.
- On the economic side there is a Limited Partnership between TteS and SIB. Also, Stk'emlúpssemc has its own income trust to distribute profits that will eventually flow from business activities of the Division.
- SSN has negotiated a government-to-government agreement with BC on Mining Minerals Agreement that defines how BC & Stk'emlúpssemc interact.
- SSN has negotiated a revenue-sharing agreement with BC - Economic and Community Development Agreement (ECDA). Please read Section 3.1 a-j, section 6.2. Acknowledgements and Covenants, a-g and section 6.3. Community Priorities, Annual Payments, and Records sections a-f."

of-court settlement for compensation. The 6 Mile project was the start of rebuilding Stk'emlúpssemc.

After the 6 Mile Settlement Agreement TteS and SIB worked together more closely on defending aboriginal title and rights interests in the face of major land & resource development projects.

Based on the success of these agreements, TteS and SIB signed a protocol agreement in 2007 committing them to work together to share lands and resources within Stk'emlúpsúl'ecw or





- SSN has filed a writ to bloc transfer of Weyco (Weyhauser) timber tenures to ensure aboriginal title & rights are accommodated, from this flowed the "Secwepemc Reconciliation Framework Agreement (SRFA)" and our litigation has been put into abeyance.
- SSN will continue to seek compensation and joint management on development projects that infringe on aboriginal title and rights.
- SSN will negotiate benefit sharing agreements with companies engaged in major land & resource development projects.
- SSN will ensure that the BC government consults with TteS & SIB on economic development projects in Stk'emlúpsemc that affect aboriginal title and rights.

Kúkpi7 Louis Xle Xxlé xhen - born 1832 died 1915

On April 2, 2015 the Education Department and Museum hosted a celebration honoring Kúkpi7 Louis Xle Xxlé xhen, it was an awesome event. Our Nursery and Daycare children opened the event with the "Welcome Song" this was so inspiring to seeing that our young children that have learned this song and Chief Louis Monument Quotes.

*"There have been quite a few chiefs who have travelled to find something that is good to be talked of. I might find something to talk of myself that is good. This, where I am now, I think it is my land. The Queen said to me 'Louis, you might be poor by and by, and some of my people will come over and fix your land,' so they came and fixed my land and they told me Louis, this land now is yours forever."*

*Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of BC*

*Kamloops BC*

*October 28, 1913*

*"There was a table and a hole in the middle of that table, the dishes and utensils would fall through, and that is the way it is with this bit of land inside our reserve being in the hands of those people"*

*Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of BC*

*Kamloops BC*

*October 28, 1913*

*"I have been talking to my people for some years past, to you Chiefs and to the Governments, and to the people (white people) that are here present. I never talk to them anything wrong, but I have said to you Chiefs that you had better help me with my work and with my people so as we will be able to get along good in the future"*

*Royal Commission on Indian Affairs for the Province of BC*

*Kamloops BC*

*October 28, 1913*

*"We have not enough land. I want more so that when I am dead my children may profit from it."*

*Chief Louis Feb 10, 1874 Kamloops Indian Village*

*To Commissioner Powell*



### Quotes about Louis

*"He was generally recognized as one of the ablest Chiefs in the Interior. He was a man of keen intelligence, very diplomatic in all business connected with the interests of his people, and he will be missed by them."*

*Kamloops Sentinel April 16, 1915* In turn pass on this knowledge

### Declaration of Title

#### Pípsell [Jacko Lake & area]

#### Why Declare Title now?

The SSN have been involved with both the federal and provincial governments since the project section 10 order (February 2011). It has taken the Province nearly a year since the Tsilhqot'in decision (July 2015) and information supplied through our Cultural Heritage Study (August 2014) to revise their assessment and conclude that we have high prima facie for both Title and Rights.

Unfortunately the project Environmental Assessment process has continued without amendment despite this revised assessment. With the proposed project Application submission planned for August, 2015 we believe that now is the time to give notice to the government that this project cannot be assessed using the same status quo Environmental Assessment methods and process, and assumptions.

#### Do you intend to take our lands?

The SSN do not intend to harm or threaten our guests. In our Memorial to Sir Wilfrid Laurier (1910) our Chiefs clearly articulated, "With us when a person enters our house he becomes our guest, and we must treat him hospitably



as long as he shows no hostile intentions. At the same time we expect him to return to us equal treatment for what he receives.

Some of our Chiefs said, “These people wish to be partners with us in our country. We must, therefore, be the same as brothers to them, and live as one family. We will share equally in everything half and half in land, water and timber, etc. What is ours will be theirs, and what is theirs will be ours. We will help each other to be great and good.”

### **What is the SSN Project Assessment Process?**

The SSN like others have been requesting an Independent Review Panel process for the assessment of the Ajax Mine Project. This level of review continues to be denied to us all. In relation to our Declaration of Title we will develop our project assessment process which will run alongside and where appropriate collaboratively with the Environmental Assessment Process (BCEAO & CEAA). Our process will be inclusive rather than exclusive and assess the project using our laws and governance including assessments which respect our cultural perspectives, knowledge & history. These processes may include components such as independent expert reviews, community based oral gatherings or hearings and assessments specific to intangible impacts such as those of a cultural and spiritual nature.

### **How can I stay updated?**

SSN will continue to publish Community Information Articles and post information on both our webpage and facebook page. We ask that you call and / or write your government representatives Todd Stone (MLA, Kamloops South Thompson) and Cathy McLeod (MP Kamloops) and encourage them to uphold the honour of the Crown so that we can all be great and good.

Re Stk'emlupsemc w7ec te tsyecwminst.ses re Pípsell  
The Stk'emlupsemc who are the caretakers of Jacko Lake & area

Yeri7 Stsukws!  
wel me yew te Tkemlúpsemc -The Kamloops people will flourish and endure



# Councillor Katy Gottfriedson

Weyt-k Everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer weather that has arrived. With this season brings on the summer break and new graduates. With that, I would like to wish all graduates of 2015 a very special congratulations on behalf of myself and Council. Whether it was kindergarten, elementary school, high school or post-secondary, I would like to recognize you for all of your hard work, time, efforts and dedication to achieving this great accomplishment!

Secondly, I would like to thank membership for the great support shown within the community forums we've recently held regarding our Membership and Matrimonial Real Property Law. It brings me tremendous happiness to know that you as members are passionate about having your voices heard and ensure that we as leadership are receiving direction from you. I would ask that we keep up the momentum moving into the future to have dialog and direction taken seriously by us as council especially when it comes to discussions regarding issues like mining, pipelines and taxation. Your voices are my guides in making decisions; not only for our current membership but for generations to follow.

Speaking of inter generational impacts, I'll jump right into my report.

## Day Scholars

The progress in our Class Action is attracting well deserved attention across Canada. We are seeing great support from other First Nations communities, leadership and in some cases media. This support is strengthening our negotiation powers that we will need moving forward with our court case. This attention has also brought financial support from the Squamish Nation with their fundraising efforts. SNTC Tribal Chair Chief Wayne Christian has also committed to doing a large fundraising event with the Secwepemc bands to help offset travel and fees that both communities are currently accruing. Even though we will be receiving our legal costs back when we win our case, all of the fundraising that is done alleviates the financial burden both communities are carrying at this time.



June marked a great month for Tk'emlúps and Sechelt as the Honourable Justice Harrington has arrived at a decision, months earlier than anticipated. The outcome was to approve our Class Action to Certification. Keeping in mind Canada has a small window of time to appeal, ending at the end of this month to give notice that they will do this. This is great news in regards to our progressing moving forward for action and justice.

Approving certification means that Canada and their legal team will have two options immediately following their time line to appeal. They can negotiate a settlement with the plaintiffs (Tk'emlúps and Sechelt) or Justice Harrington will make a ruling on a settlement for Canada to act upon.

Harrington also supported our claim of settle-





ment for the three classes that we put forward. The first being the Day Scholars themselves, second, the first generation of those DS students and third, the band class that encompasses the membership as a whole. The first two classes will be eligible to receive compensation for impacts and inter generational impact and the third class, band class will be offered options for healing, most likely by way of a healing centre. Receiving any type of settlement from the Government of Canada will still be several months away. Again, I thank you for your support and patience with the work being done.

For more information on our Day Scholars Class Action, please contact Jo-Anne Gottfriedson at [jo-anne.gottfriedson@kib.ca](mailto:jo-anne.gottfriedson@kib.ca) or visit our new website, [justicefordayscholars.com](http://justicefordayscholars.com)

### Shared Services

Due to the absence of a Human Resource Manager over the last four months, our Human Resource Department has not been able to compile its information to create an up-to-date HR Report. However, these reports will be back on track and a part of my upcoming reports going forward.

Looking at employment opportunities, the summer employment positions have been posted and should be filled within the next couple of weeks which will bring an increased amount of member employment for the upcoming months.

In addition to that positive news, we have hired a new HR Manager, Tia Gorman last week and will be starting with us mid-July. Tia has extensive experience as an Certified Human Resource Professional with a large focus on training, and capacity building. TteS looks forward to working with her and utilizing her expertise and skills for the betterment of our staff and membership.



For employment information, please contact Salvina Holcomb at [salvina.holcomb@kib.ca](mailto:salvina.holcomb@kib.ca)

For more information on training and employment with our external partners, please contact Paula Pellett at [paula.pellett@kib.ca](mailto:paula.pellett@kib.ca)

If there is any other questions you may have for me regarding my report, portfolio, or any other other business please do not hesitate to contact me via phone (250) 828-9743 or email [katy.gottfriedson@kib.ca](mailto:katy.gottfriedson@kib.ca).

Kukwstsétsemc





## Declaration of Title Pípsell (Jacko Lake & area) Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation



We the Chiefs of the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation make declaration of our Title at Pípsell (Jacko Lake and surroundings). The proposed Ajax Mine site is located in Pípsell (Jacko Lake and its surroundings) which is a cultural keystone area with significant spiritual and historical importance to us. The area is connected by our epic oral history titled in English *The Trout Children* stemming from Jacko Lake and its surrounding which explains the deeds of Secwepemc people on the lands and to the land as inseparably connected. Pípsell and its Secwepemc stsq'ey' (indigenous laws) provide the narrative foundation for ownership and stewardship of Secwepemc lands and resources. The Secwepemc law concept of x7ensq't (the land and sky turning on you) is directly connected to this area because it is imbued with spiritual power due to past events and where we have a special responsibility to safeguard the respectful relationship with the land, lest the land and sky turn on you.

In May of 2015, the Province of British Columbia issued a revised Strength of Claim re-assessment confirming that in consideration of the *Tsilhqot'in* decision, and in consideration of additional information provided, we have strong *prima facie* claims for both Aboriginal Rights and Title in the vicinity of the proposed Ajax Mine Project. The Province has also acknowledged that the proposed Ajax Mine project including an open pit mine and associated infrastructure could have serious impact on SSN's Aboriginal Interests.

We assert sovereignty and full control over our territory. By this political declaration, we hereby put the Provincial and Federal Governments on notice of our Aboriginal Rights and Title in Pípsell and of their responsibility to preserve SSN's Aboriginal Interests. Your Governments should stop their interference with SSN Aboriginal Rights and Title in this area. We will no longer stand by and watch your Government invade SSN territory and destroy a culturally keystone area where SSN continue to carry out traditional and cultural practices including our Aboriginal Trout Fishery on Jacko Lake. The first and now abandoned Ajax mine in this area destroyed the land without our permission and left the old Afton Tailings Pond that continues to put our members and local residents at risk. The new Project plans to continue the legacy of wrongs in the our territory by interfering with our Title and the right to decide the use and preservation of the land and resources for future generations. our sovereignty will no longer be ignored.

All activities and developments on our Territory must be consistent with our Laws. No Project will proceed except with our informed consent. We will continue our preparations to conduct our own assessment of the proposed Ajax Mine Project using our own laws and jurisdictional authority. Our project assessment will respect our Aboriginal Rights and Title (ownership) to the lands and resources and include decision- making power (jurisdiction) on how the land is to be used and preserved for future generations.

Declared this 21<sup>st</sup> Day of June, 2015 at Pípsell [Jacko Lake], Secwepemcúlecw, British Columbia

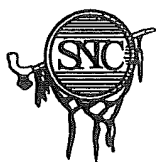
Kukpi7 Shane Gottfriedson  
Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation  
Tk'emlups te Secwepemc

Kukpi7 Ron Ignace  
Stk'emlupsemc te Secwepemc Nation  
Skeetchestn

Kukpi7 Wayne Christian  
SNTC Chair  
Splatsin

Grand Chief Richard LeBourdais  
Secwepemc Elders Council  
Co-Chair

*Re Stk'emlupsemc w7ec te tsyecwminst.ses re Pípsell*  
The Stk'emlupsemc who are the caretakers of Jacko Lake & area



# Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

680 ATHABASCA STREET W., KAMLOOPS, BC V2H 1C4

Phone: (778) 471-8200 Fax: (778) 471-5804 e-mail: [sntcadmn@shuswapnation.org](mailto:sntcadmn@shuswapnation.org)

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

~~Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2~~

~~Honourable Peter MacKay  
Minister of Justice  
509s Center Block, House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6~~

Dear Prime Minister Harper and Minister MacKay,

**RE: SNTC Chiefs Opposition to Bill C-51 "Anti-terrorism Act, 2015"**

The Chiefs of the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council are vehemently opposed to the proposed Bill C-51 "Anti-terrorism Act, 2015" as it currently stands. This Act completely disregards the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and our rights as Indigenous Peoples to stand up and voice our concerns without fear of being branded and prosecuted as terrorists on our own lands.

We stand united with the position put forward by AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde during his presentation on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to the Standing Committee on Bill C-51 where he stated that "First Nations will vigorously oppose any legislation that does not respect and protect our rights."

We call for the same recommendations as made by National Chief Bellegarde: (1) that the Government withdraw the Bill and consult properly with First Nations about its impacts on our rights; and (2) that the Government discuss with First Nations options for a review process to examine all federal legislation that can impact the assertion of our section 35 rights.

Please accept this letter as a formal submission noting our complete and utter opposition to the proposed legislation. Bill C-51 is a direct threat to our hard-won rights and freedoms, a concern affecting all First Nations and Canadians. We believe in peace and security but not for the costs this Bill is proposing. We urge the Government of Canada to withdraw this Bill and discuss alternative and more conducive ways of protecting its citizens.

Kukstsemcw,

Shane Gottfriedson, Tribal Chief

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WITH TEAMWORK WE CREATE ACTION & PRIDE

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***Call 250-828-9700 or visit [www.tkemlups.ca](http://www.tkemlups.ca)***



@Tk'emlúps



Tkemlúps-te-Secwépemc



[www.ttesweekly.wordpress.com](http://www.ttesweekly.wordpress.com)

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