

Secwepemc Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williams Lake, "BC" - Wednesday, June 13, 2K1

Under the *continued* written authority of their Hereditary Chief of the Texelc area, members of the Secwepemc Nation originating from five (5) northern Secwepemc communities, have resumed *selective-harvesting* of fibre resources well within their traditional territories on March 28, 2K1.

The number of active sites being selectively harvested under the April 08, 1999 resolution has now climbed to four (4). This number is scheduled to increase as more sights are collectively surveyed by the harvesting crew and prospective Secwepemc homeowners.

In a legal context, the members are standing on **existing** International Law and **existing** "Canadian" Constitutional Law, law which is to be entered as primary pieces of evidence.

In a social context, this action is to physically alleviate the ever-present housing shortage and provide community structures such as those afforded to other Secwepemc Indian Act communities .

In an economic context, **Paragraph 166** of the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark decision *Delgamuukw*, reaffirms at a domestic law level, our International legal right as **Aboriginal Peoples** to earn a living from the resources where we can verify our use and existence of and on the land prior to 1846.

Since we started logging on March 06, 2000 and subsequently stopped as a gesture of good faith in May of 2000, there have been **numerous** documented Shuswap and Secwepemc meetings before and after this timeframe (for example: 04/08/99, 06/11/99, 02/01/00, 02/02/00, 04/04/00, 04/25/00, 08/11/00, 09/29/00 & 10/31/00) attempting to pay collective lip service to this serious socio-economic issue. These vague meetings have only produced **clear-cut** logging activities beneficial to DIA Shuswap band-owned logging companies and corporations who are voluntarily susceptible to "BC" stumpage. To this day, there are no solid **selective-harvesting** opportunities available to individual Secwepemc Nation members.

Contrary to past and anticipated slanderous press releases from the *Shuswap Nation Tribal Council* and the *Williams Lake Indian Band*, Secwepemc Nation members who are also currently certified "BC" West Coast Fallers, are dominant in the **selective-harvesting** of the much needed fibre. As an eco-compromise on our part, actual 'on the ground' **selective-harvesting** activities are also conducted within strenuous accordance of the settler government of 'BC's *Forest Practices Code* and *Worker's Compensation Act*.

Secwepemc harvesters and prospective homeowners are concerned about this illegal condescending position adopted by the SNTC and WLIB. Confidential documentation systematically attained reveals collaboration between the SNTC, WLIB and the CTC issuing press releases favouring domestic Canadian Law which is in stark contrast to existing International Law and International Treaties. These moves were obviously an attempt to conceal and suppress these laws and treaties and to try to increase their support and funding within the DIA hierarchy. We hope this is not the case again. We also urge them to reconsider their illegal DIA position and at least superficially endorse the **selective-harvesting** like they collectively can.

This pre-meditated socio-economic oppression by our own Secwepemc people must stop.

- 30 -

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| For more info: ==> | Arnie Jack | Williams Lake | (250) 305-5103 |
| | | Vancouver | (604) 780-3451 |
| | | E-Mail | a_ja345@hotmail.com |

A DIA definition of existing Aboriginal Rights and Title may be obtained by contacting:

| | | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------|
| Williams Lake Indian Band Office | => (250) 296-3507 | Fax # (250) 296-4750 |
| Attn: Lawyer/Chief Nancy Sandy | | |
| Cariboo Tribal Council | => (250) 392-7361 | Fax # (250) 392-7403 |
| Attn: Administrator Cathy Verhage | | |
| Shuswap Nation Tribal Council & Interior Alliance HQ | => (250) 828-9789 | Fax # (250) 374-6331 |
| Attn: Spokesman Art Manuel | | |
| "BC" First Nations Summit | => (604) 990-9939 | Fax # (604) 990-9949 |
| Attn: Chief Bill Wilson | | |
| Assembly of First Nations "BC" Regional Vice-Chief | => (604) 609-0114 | Fax # (604) 609-0124 |
| Attn: 'BC' Vice-Chief Herb George | | |
| Assembly of First Nations | => (613) 241-5789 | Fax # (613) 241-5808 |
| Attn: National Chief Mathew Coon Come | | |