

Secwepemc Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 AM – PST, THURday, April 03, MMIII --- 62 KM, RED LAKE Road, Williams Lake, 'bc'

After a self-imposed, peaceful two year work stoppage and acting under the authority of the April 08, 1999 Secwepemc Nation Fibre Harvesting Resolution, members of the Williams Lake Indian Band Opposition in concert with other Secwepemc Nationals have once again resumed stumpage – free, selective – harvesting of fibre resources well within their traditional territories of the Secwepemc Nation.

The Harvesting 4 Homes concept is being conducted at 62 km of the RED LAKE Road (FSR 2300) in the same spot where it started over 3 years ago. This road is immediately east of the 150 Mile Mega Fuels on Highway # 97.

In a continued LEGAL context, the harvesters are again standing on existing International Law and existing 'canadian' Constitutional Law, law which is to be entered as primary pieces of evidence.

In a continued SOCIAL context, this resumed 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 a continued ECONOMIC context, PARAGRAPH 166 of the Supreme Court of Canada's landmark decision Delgamuukw, reaffirms at a 'canadian' domestic law level, our international legal right as Aboriginal Peoples to earn a living from the resources where we can verify our existence, use and occupancy of and on the land prior to 1846.

This resumed action is the physical result of primarily 4 recent open meetings which have taken place in the Williams Lake valley:

- 06 / 19 / 02 - Bill-Nor Restaurant – *New and Improved Results Based Forest Practices Code* Panel Member and Cariboo North MLA John WILSON publicly stated during WLIB Opposition Member Arnie JACK's 11:40 am Panel Submission: "There is nothing in the *New and Improved Results Based Forest Practices Code* which deals with Aboriginal Peoples Harvesting 4 Homes"
- 09 / 30 / 02 - Elks Hall – Cariboo Tribal Council AGM – The four chiefs of the CTC were instructed by passed resolution to hold a Sovereign Logging discussion meeting by December 25, 2002. All four continue to disregard this direction which was issued by community members in attendance.
- 10 / 4 / 02 - Sugar Cane Gym – Secwepemc Natural Resources Board AGM (a registered 'bc' society) – Directors for the Shuswap Chiefs Forestry Technical Team (aka SNRB), Jeff EUSTACHE and Kristy PALMANTIER, resort to loud DIA voice command and physical violence in a childish attempt to conceal SNRB Society approved, unsigned, funding deficient financial statements to the circle of SNRB directors appointed by 17 Shuswap DIA Chiefs. WL RCMP C/O Merv POINTER, instantly and unilaterally refuses to lay death threat charges or issue peace bonds against SNRB directors or any friendly affiliates.
- 11 / 25 / 02 - Sugar Cane Gym – WLIB General Band Meeting - WLIB Chief and Council request a separate meeting with WLIB Opposition Members in order to remove Harvesting 4 Homes issues off of the immediate band meeting agenda. Two weeks later, Band Council refuse to set a meeting date, stating that: " They don't want to give the WLIB Opposition *any more ammunition*"

We have a lot of homes to build and the sooner we get started the better.

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Williams Lake Indian Band Opposition

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