

DEC. 28, 2001

Devastation and Destruction by Sun Peaks Resort and British Columbia Government

January, 1996 – The Lakes Secwepemc consisting of Adams Lake, Neskonlith, and Little Shuswap Bands wrote a letter to Mr. Masayoshi Ohkubo informing him of the 1862 unsettled Neskonlith Douglas reserve claim by the three bands.

March, 1996 – The Adams Lake Band wrote to Ministry of Environment informing them of the Neskonlith Douglas reserve claim and opposed any issuance of licenses and permits to Sun Peaks.

January, 1997 – Sun Peaks Resort and Secwepemc Chiefs signed a Protocol Agreement. This agreement is not legally binding. The parties agree to joint meetings to discuss matters of mutual concern and to develop and maintain effective, open communication between each other at all times. This agreement was never carried out.

October, 1997 – The Adams Lake Band wrote to Darcy Alexander, President of Sun Peaks Corporation stating they want all development at Sun Peaks halted.

September, 1998 – The Adams Lake Band withdrew from the Protocol Agreement signed by Sun Peaks and Secwepemc Chiefs.

November, 1998 – The Lakes Secwepemc Elders issued a statement to Mr. Ohkubo demanding no further development or expansion of Sun Peaks operations.

October, 2000 – Elders, youth, and land-users of the Lakes Secwepemc establish the Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center at the entrance to Sun Peaks Resort.

March, 2001 – Secwepemc and supporters demonstrate at Much Music event. Much Music has said they would not return to Sun Peaks Resort until a settlement is reached.

May, 2001 – Secwepemc erect a permanent log building on the MacGillvray Lake road between Sun Peaks resort and MacGillvray Lake. The land is not under any land tenure by Sun Peaks or the Province of B. C.

June, 2001 – Secwepemc exercise their right to live on their lands by settling at MacGillvray Lake.

June 6, 2001- The British Columbia Assets and Lands Corporation issues a lease to Sun Peaks where the Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center was located. No consultation took place with the Secwepemc.

June 9, 2001 – Sun Peaks Corporation employees destroy a traditional cedar bark lodge erected by Elders and youth.

June 24, 2001 – a Sun Peaks resident assaults A young Secwepemc woman. She is charged with mischief and charges against the resident are dropped.

June 24, 2001 – Approximately 25- 30 RCMP officers raid MacGillvray Lake to arrest six youth involved in the demonstration.

June 30, 2001 – The log building at Skwelkwekwelt is burned. Arson is the cause but no one is charged.

July 18, 2001 – Sun Peaks receives an injunction to remove the Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center in order to install water lines for Delta Hotel.

July 23, 2001 – Four Secwepemc, including two Elders, are arrested and charged with criminal contempt for refusing to leave the Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center.

August 6, 2001- A sacred pipe ceremony is held on Mt. Morrisey to give guidance and protection for the people to construct a traditional winter home on Mt. Morrisey. This center will be a healing and cultural teaching center.

August 17, 2001 – Sun Peaks employees totally demolish the road to Mt. Morrisey. Four massive trenches are dug in the road making it impassible. The Ministry of Forest allows the destruction of the road.

August 24, 2001 – Youth blockade the road to Sun Peaks resort in response to destruction of Mt. Morrisey road. Nine people are arrested and charged.

August 24, 2001 – Ministry of Highways and RCMP demolish the Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center using the Highway Act.

August 30, 2001 – Native Youth members hold a demonstration at BCAL in Victoria in support of action at Skwelkwekwelt. BCAL is considering leasing land at MacGillvray to Sun Peaks Resort.

October 9, 2002 – Trespass notices are delivered to the Secwepemc at MacGillvray Lake and Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center.

November 4, 2001 – Lorne Dunn of the Sun Peaks Snowmobile Tours drives his snowmobile into MacGillvray Lake and deliberately creates a situation blaming Native youth for assaulting his son. No investigation was held nor were any charges laid.

November 8, 2001- Attorney General Geoff Plant discontinues talks with Chief Arthur Manuel citing high tensions in the Skwelkwekwelt area and blaming Secwepemc for the tension, he cites, the snowmobile incident at MacGillvray Lake.

November 16, 2001 – Seizure notice is delivered to Secwepemc at MacGillvray Lake and Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center. Police use extreme force and violence to arrest three youth at MacGillvray and issue warrant for two more.

December 3 and 5, 2001 – Judge Beames hears injunction application by Sun Peaks Resort and British Columbia Government. Judge Beam's rules in favor of Sun Peaks and the B. C. Government ruling that they would be more harmed by Secwepemc occupation of their lands. Secwepemc are forbidden for occupying an area at MacGillvray Lake and the base area of the Sun Peaks Resort.

December 10, 2001 – Attorney General Geoff Plant and Minister of Sustainable Development Stan Hagan order the removal of the Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center and the demolition of a Secwepemc family home and two sweatlodges at MacGillvray Lake.

Reid Tate of Kamloops RCMP order huge snow blockades on the road east of MacGillvray Lake to prevent Secwepemc from returning to the site.

December 28, 2001 – Two Secwepemc Elders, one 73 years old and one 75 years old; three Secwepemc women, and one youth are arrested and charged in a road block on road to Sun Peaks Resort.