

OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

UNION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIAN CHIEFS

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August 26, 2021

Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
Via Email Only: Premier@gov.bc.ca

Re: Support for Nuxalkmc Statalmc Asserting Jurisdiction and Rights Regarding Mining

Dear Premier Horgan,

The Union of BC Indian Chiefs stands in solidarity with the Nuxalkmc Statalmc as they assert their rights to proper consultation, benefits from resources, and jurisdiction over their territory. We support the Nation in their eviction of Juggernaut Exploration and their efforts to halt all mining operations in Nuxalkulmc. The mining company has not received the consent of the Nation. Their operations endanger sacred areas within the Nuxalkulmc and will pollute streams and other areas where the Nuxalk harvest food, fish, hunt, and conduct ceremonies.

The Nuxalk Nation has never ceded Title and Rights to their territory, nor are they involved in any treaty negotiations with the Canadian government. We call on the governments of Canada and BC to honour the Nuxalk Nation's jurisdiction and act in good faith and in line with the obligation to uphold principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent as outlined in the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the Declaration Act when approaching the Nuxalk on resource development issues.

First Nations have since time immemorial been the stewards of their respective territories. They continue to steward and defend the land as those that wish to destroy and consume it trespass and exploit resources without Free, Prior, and Informed consent or building government-to-government relationships. These desecrations are a continuation of violent colonial relationships that have yet to be rectified. We implore you to cease issuing tenures/permits and to recognize that mining activities including exploration are violating the human rights of the Nuxalkmc Statalmc.

On behalf of the UNION OF BC INDIAN CHIEFS



Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
President



Chief Don Tom
Vice-President



Kukpi7 Judy Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer

CC:

Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada

Nuskmata (Jacinda Mack)