



**Alaska Native Brotherhood & Alaska Native
Sisterhood
Grand Camp**



RESOLUTION No. 14-18

**Title: Supporting International Joint Commission Involvement in the
Alaska/British Columbia Transboundary Region**

WHEREAS, the Transboundary rivers of British Columbia and the Yukon region bound Southeast Alaska and include the Taku, Stikine, Unuk and Alsek rivers, of tremendous and unique ecological, subsistence, cultural and recreational value. The clean water and intact habitat of these river systems make them some of the most productive wild salmon rivers on the west coast of North America; and

WHEREAS, with the BC Northwest Power Line bringing in power, these rivers and their tributaries are facing a significant increase in new, large scale development and industrialization that will transform the area and impact these rivers. Several open-pit mine projects, in known acid-generating ore bodies, along with associated waste rock piles, tailing dams, energy projects and roads, all threaten the productivity of the rivers and the health of the region. Major threats to water quality, salmon and wildlife include accidents and spills, tailing dam breaches, long-term acid mine drainage, and habitat fragmentation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed mines include Tulsequah Chief in the Taku watershed; Galore Creek, Red Chris and Schaft Creek in the Stikine watershed; and the Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM) project in the headwaters of the Unuk River; and

WHEREAS, the environmental laws and permitting processes in BC and Canada have been weakened over the past decade. The ongoing acid mine drainage from the Tulsequah Chief mine and the tailings dam failure at the Mt. Polley mine demonstrate weaknesses in monitoring and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Alaskan Native Tribes, B.C. First Nations, fishermen, subsistence and recreational users, local communities, elected leaders and conservation groups on both sides of the Canadian/U.S. border have all raised concerns about the pace and scope of the proposed industrial development in British Columbia and the potential for harm to water quality, fish and wildlife, cultural practices and local economies; and

WHEREAS, nothing is more fundamental than the food we eat and nothing is more important than the salmon, hooligan, deer, moose and other food we harvest from the land; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian and BC permitting processes have not been adequate to address our concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary Waters Treaty states “waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other” and provides a mechanism to address Transboundary river concerns known as the International Joint Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood in Grand Camp assembled in Petersburg, Alaska between October 8 through October 11, 2014 respectfully requests the United States through the State Department work with the government of Canada to refer the issue of Transboundary development and downstream concerns to the International Joint Commission and to utilize any and all powers under the Boundary Water Treaty to ensure that our resources are not harmed by upstream development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska Native Brotherhood and Alaska Native Sisterhood, urge the State Department, all federal and State of Alaska agencies to consult with affected Tribal governments as required by law including Executive Order 13175.



William E. Martin
ANB Grand President



Freda M. Westman
ANS Grand President

ATTEST: I certify that this resolution was adopted by the ANB/ANS Grand Camp in convention at Petersburg, Alaska, during the week of October 8 through October 11, 2014.



Colette Buchanan
ANB Grand Secretary