

ALASKA NATIVE SISTERHOOD CAMP #2
One-Hundredth Annual Convention
October 7 - 10, 2015
Wrangell, Alaska

RESOLUTION 15-00

36

Title: Supporting an Alliance of Southeast Alaska and Canadian Tribes to Provide
International Oversight of Area Watersheds

By: Alaska Native Sisterhood, Camp #2

WHEREAS, the failure of the Mount Polley dam in the Cariboo region of British Columbia is considered one of the biggest environmental disasters in modern Canadian history;

WHEREAS, failure of the Mount Polley dam resulted in the dumping of 25 millions tons of toxic waste water containing arsenic, lead, and selenium into central British Columbia waterways, contaminating previously pristine creeks and lakes and contaminating waters that support fish and provide drinking water for humans and wildlife;

WHEREAS, a year after the Mount Polley dam failure, Imperial Metals, the mine owner, received a permit to operate the Red Chris Mine in the headwaters of the Stikine River despite serious concerns about dam safety and the ability of Canadian regulators to oversee mining operations;

WHEREAS, Richard Peterson, president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska addressed tribal members this spring and spoke of his concern about the effect of mining on the watersheds of the Stikine, Taku, and Unuk rivers;

WHEREAS, Ethel Lund, Alaska Native Sisterhood executive committee member, stated in a recent interview, "The Stikine River is very precious to us...I worry about the mines and the pollution and I think about the tremendous impact it could have on our communities and waterways."

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska has joined other tribal groups to form the United Tribal Transboundary Mining Work Group (UTTMWG) to promote awareness of tribal concerns in the rapid development of large-scale mining activities in northern British Columbia that could affect Southeast Alaska and Canadian watersheds;

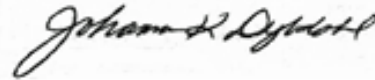
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Camp #2 of the Alaska Native Sisterhood urges Alaska Native tribes and First Nations groups to work together to ensure Southeast Alaska and Canadian watersheds remain free of pollution and to protect fish and wildlife, drinking water, and other important resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Camp #2 of the Alaska Native Sisterhood strongly urges Alaska's Congressional delegation to seek international oversight of trans-boundary mining in Southeast Alaska under the Boundary Waters Treaty to ensure mining in Canada doesn't harm Alaska's waters and communities.

ADOPTED this ___ day of September, 2015, by the membership of Camp #2 of the Alaska Native Sisterhood meeting in Juneau.

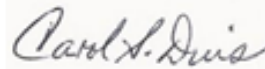


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