

Ktunaxa Nation Hopeful Province's Postponement of Jumbo Decision Will Give Aboriginal Concerns Due Consideration

Cranbrook BC, September 23, 2004 - The Ktunaxa Nation is hopeful the Government of British Columbia's postponement of its decision regarding the Jumbo Glacier Resort project will give the ministers responsible time to discuss, understand and seriously consider the Nation's concerns regarding the project.

The Province was initially scheduled to announce its decision on whether to issue an environmental assessment certificate to the project under the Environmental Assessment Act by September 17, 2004. That deadline has been extended to October 18, 2004.

The proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort development is within the Ktunaxa Nation's traditional territory in the Purcell Mountain Range approximately 55 km's Northwest of Invermere BC. The proposed project will have a major impact on the Nation's aboriginal rights and title. If the project is approved to proceed as proposed it will also negatively impact land, water, wildlife, fish and plants in the area.

The Ktunaxa Nation has voiced its concerns with respect to the Jumbo project for many years, and passed resolutions in September 1995 and January 2003 expressing opposition to the project as proposed at the time.

On July 20, 2004 the Ktunaxa Nation submitted its assessment of the measures proposed by the project and the province's Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). This assessment, which consisted of comments on the proposed measures along with supporting reports from independent specialist experts, resulted in six principal areas of concern and conclusions, and asked the EAO to request additional assessments and or actions by Jumbo Glacier Resorts Ltd. with respect to the outstanding issues, particularly:

- A review of the grizzly bear impact mitigation program by a jointly appointed independent panel of grizzly bear specialists.
- A review of the outstanding issues pertaining to other wildlife species by a second panel of jointly appointed wildlife experts.
- A directive to Jumbo Glacier Resorts Ltd. to negotiate an Impact Management and Benefits Agreement with the Ktunaxa Nation within a specified time frame.
- Establishment of a joint Ktunaxa-BC-Jumbo Glacier Resorts Ltd. committee to address impacts to Ktunaxa people's access for traditional-use purposes.
- Establishment of a joint Ktunaxa-BC agreement and process to manage cumulative impacts on Jumbo creek, Toby creek and surrounding watersheds.

The Ktunaxa Nation's position is that its outstanding concerns must be adequately addressed prior to the government's final decision on the project.

On August 23, 2004 Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council (KKTC) Administrator Kathryn Teneese requested a meeting with the Ministers responsible for the government's decision to discuss the Ktunaxa Nation's issues and concerns regarding the project prior to the original September 17 deadline. To date the ministers have not responded to Ms. Teneese's request.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Donna Kraus-Hagerman, Communications Coordinator
Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council
(250) 417-4022
dkraus.hagerman@kktc.bc.ca