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## **Ktunaxa Nation re-affirms opposition to Jumbo**

***Kootenays / Ktunaxa Traditional Territory*** – The Ktunaxa Nation Council today re-affirms their opposition to the proposed Jumbo Glacier Resort, based upon unaddressed impacts to Ktunaxa interests.

This re-affirmation comes in response to a media release announcing that Glacier Resorts Ltd. and Shuswap Indian Band had reached an Impact Management Benefit Agreement for the controversial Jumbo Resort.

“The Kinbasket people do not have the same level of history or commitment to our Traditional Territory,” said Ktunaxa Nation Chair, Chief Sophie Pierre. “Subsequently, I understand their position to support the development. Our Creation Story is quite clear that Ktunaxa have a responsibility to be stewards of the land, and we take that role seriously.”

“The Ktunaxa are not anti-development, however we feel that large scale developments must be conducted in an environmentally, socially, ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable manner for future generations.”

The Ktunaxa Nation participated in the environmental assessment (EA) process for the Jumbo Glacier Resort in good faith starting in 1997, and voiced major concerns that were not being addressed up until the conclusion of the EA in 2004. The Ktunaxa continue to dispute many of the conclusions, including the true impacts on the culturally significant grizzly. Despite Ktunaxa opposition, an EA Certificate was issued to Glacier Resorts Ltd.

Since that time, an independent scientific study led by renowned grizzly bear biologist Michael Proctor, showed that the central Purcell grizzly bear population was less robust than anticipated at the time of the EA decision.

“Many people are making their decisions to support Jumbo based upon old data,” continued Pierre. We encourage everybody to take another look at what the true impacts will be.”

“Impacts on the grizzly are just one of the many outstanding concerns that the Ktunaxa have. The resort will also impact other wildlife species; water quality and flows; and hunting access.”

The Ktunaxa Nation has never extinguished their Aboriginal Title within their Traditional Territory, and government and proponents have a legal obligation to consult about and accommodate impacts upon Ktunaxa interests.

Pursuant to their stewardship responsibility, Pierre says the Ktunaxa Nation is attempting to address the serious impacts through parallel negotiations with Glacier Resorts Ltd. and the provincial government.

“You cannot have these negotiations in isolation of one another. You need to see the overall plan to ensure that impacts on the entire area are adequately addressed. There has been no significant progress from either table, but we are working diligently with both parties to address our outstanding concerns.”

“Until we have reached agreement on the outstanding concerns, our position will remain the same, and we will vigorously protect our interests,” concluded Pierre.

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