



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Ktunaxa Nation

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**For Immediate Release  
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### Ktunaxa Nation launches public awareness campaign opposing Columbia Headwaters development

**Cranbrook, B.C.** – The Ktunaxa Nation today announced the launch of a public awareness campaign and web site, [www.columbiaheadwaters.com](http://www.columbiaheadwaters.com), to highlight Ktunaxa Nation concerns with the Fairmont Hot Springs Resort's (FHSR) proposed development on Lot 48 located on the east side of Columbia Lake 31 kilometers south of Invermere, B.C.

The Ktunaxa Nation has historically been opposed to any development on the east side of Columbia Lake because of the area's significant cultural importance to the Ktunaxa people. As such, the Ktunaxa Nation is seeking to have the area's delicate ecosystems preserved for future generations through the implementation of proper land stewardship values.

Ktunaxa Nation Chief Negotiator, Kathryn Teneese in explaining the rationale behind the public awareness campaign said, "There has been a significant movement by the developers to get this resort built without proper consultation and environmental consideration, and they are doing it at the expense of Ktunaxa cultural values. The east side of Columbia Lake is the foundation of the Ktunaxa Creation Story which is an integral part of our history. This area has been used by the Ktunaxa people for thousands of years".

"It is important for our neighbors in the surrounding communities understand our deep connection to our traditional territory and in particular the significance of Lot 48 within our culture. Any development on the east side of Columbia Lake will be a major blow to our efforts to preserve the heritage of our Nation", added Ms. Teneese.

The Ktunaxa Nation remains committed to the possibility of entering into development partnerships for lands within our traditional territory as long as the development is viable, sustainable and does not have a negative impact on our heritage sites or cultural and environmental values.

The Ktunaxa Nation strongly urges the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) to proceed with the rezoning of Lot 48 back to agricultural status which would protect this culturally significant area from future development.

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For further information on the Ktunaxa Nation's historical connection to Lot 48 please visit: [www.columbiaheadwaters.com](http://www.columbiaheadwaters.com). Further information on the Ktunaxa Nation may also be found at [www.ktunaxa.org](http://www.ktunaxa.org).

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