



MEDIA RELEASE

Ktunaxa Nation

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RCMP Investigate Disturbance to Ktunaxa Archaeology Site

The Cottages at Painted Rock development taking place on a Ktunaxa archaeology site is under investigation for the violation of the Heritage Conservation Act of British Columbia. The development area, which is located on the east side of Columbia Lake and registered in the Village of Canal Flats, is a well known location of Ktunaxa use, and had been noted as a location of significant heritage value by the Archaeology Branch of British Columbia. Charges could be laid as a result of the investigation that is currently being conducted by the Invermere RCMP Detachment.

“The Ktunaxa Nation will not comment upon ongoing police investigations, but strongly believe that there must be full accountability when the law is broken”, said Kathryn Teneese, the Chief Negotiator for the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Treaty Council. “Developers and governments should be aware of the processes required prior to construction taking place. Appropriate assessments and consultation must be done within the Ktunaxa Traditional Territory”.

“Well publicized violations to the Heritage Act at Bear Mountain and Poets Cove, have resulted in work being significantly delayed or stopped indefinitely. With greater demands being placed upon the ever-shrinking land base, we will likely see more incidents arising unless developers educate themselves, and the BC Government enforces the law” concluded Teneese.

The disturbed Ktunaxa archaeological site was first officially recorded in 1954, and has been a focus of many site visits and studies over the following years. The studies have recommended that extreme care be taken to avoid disturbances to the archaeological resources that likely exist in the entire lake shore area. The final report recommended that there should be more extensive studies conducted in the future to protect the heritage resources for the citizens of British Columbia.

For further information on the Ktunaxa historical connection to the Columbia Headwaters, please visit: www.columbiaheadwaters.com. Further information on the Ktunaxa Nation may also be found at www.ktunaxa.org.

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