



MEDIA RELEASE

Ktunaxa Nation

7468 Mission Road Cranbrook, British Columbia, V1C 7E5

Ktunaxa Nation Opposes Fairmont Hot Springs Resort Proposal To Alter the Boundaries of Columbia Lake Provincial Park

Windermere, British Columbia, August 9, 2005 – The Ktunaxa Nation strongly opposes a proposal submitted by Fairmont Hot Springs Resort Limited (FHSR) on August 2, 2005 to the BC Ministry of Environment requesting a change to the boundaries of Columbia Lake Provincial Park in order to accommodate the development of a golf course and resort project.

Columbia Lake Provincial Park is located within Ktunaxa Traditional Territory in south eastern BC on the east side of Columbia Lake south of the village of Fairmont Hot Springs.

The Ktunaxa Nation, and in particular its member community the ?Akisq'nuk First Nation located just 15 kilometres from Columbia Lake Provincial Park, is opposed to the FHSR proposal due to the important ecological and cultural significance of the area.

“The Ktunaxa Nation and the ?Akisq'nuk First Nation have made many efforts in the past to protect this area,” said Chief Mary Jimmy, ?Akisq'nuk First Nation. “We will not stand silently by and watch private interests take precedence over public, ecological and Ktunaxa interests.”

FHSR wants the boundaries of Columbia Lake Provincial Park to be altered to allow for construction of a 30 metre by 3.5 kilometre access corridor so that an existing one-way dirt road can be upgraded into a double lane paved road. The submission also calls for construction of an above ground hydro line adjacent to the road. This construction would enable FHSR to proceed with a proposed golf course and 600 unit resort housing development on the east side of Columbia Lake on an adjacent piece of land.

Columbia Lake Provincial Park was established to protect the rare grassland ecosystem and wetlands habitat along the east side of Columbia Lake. The park is highly sensitive and critical habitat for a number of threatened, vulnerable and endangered species of plants and wildlife including the bluebunch wheatgrass-junegrass plant community, the great blue heron, flammulated owl, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, bull trout, grizzly bear and badger. The park lies at the very origin of the Columbia River which flows 2,000 kilometres from Columbia Lake to the Pacific Ocean.

The area described in the FHSR proposal is within Ktunaxa traditional territory and land use planning undertaken by the Ktunaxa Nation confirms that this area has a high conservation value for the Nation.

“The Ktunaxa Nation is hopeful we will be meaningfully consulted as the Ministry of Environment reviews the FHSR proposal and that the government will hear, understand and accommodate Ktunaxa interests before any decisions are made with respect to altering the boundaries of Columbia Lake Provincial Park,” said Chief Jimmy.

- 30 -

For further information contact:

Donna Kraus-Hagerman
Communications Manager
Ktunaxa Nation
250-417-4022
dkraus.hagerman@kktc.bc.ca
www.ktunaxa.org