Ktunaxa Nation Pleased with Supreme Court of Canada Ruling

Cranbrook/ʔa·kiskʔaq?iʔit – The Supreme Court of Canada announced today that it will hear the Ktunaxa Nation's appeal to set aside the August 6, 2015 B.C. Court of Appeal decision that found B.C.’s approval of a Master Development Agreement for the resort in an area known as Qat’muk did not violate the Ktunaxa's Charter right to freedom of religion, saw no problem with B.C.’s failure to even consider that right, and determined that B.C.’s consultation with the Ktunaxa regarding their constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights was reasonable.

“We are pleased with today’s ruling from the Supreme Court,” said Kathryn Teneese, Ktunaxa Nation Council Chair. “Our right to freedom of religion should not be held in less regard than that of other Canadians. We are confident that the Supreme Court of Canada will agree that Ktunaxa beliefs and practices are vital to who we are and must be taken into account by statutory decision makers. This fight is not just for the Ktunaxa, but every Canadian who values the Charter of Rights and Freedoms as an integral part of this society.”

“Articles 11 and 25 of The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples address the rights of Indigenous people worldwide to practise, revitalize and maintain their distinctive spiritual relationships with their traditionally owned or occupied territories,” continued Teneese. “It is my hope the Supreme Court of Canada is cognizant of the impact this case may have on Indigenous people not just in Canada, but worldwide.”

The application for leave to appeal was granted with costs. No hearing date has been set.

Qat’muk is where the Grizzly Bear Spirit was born, goes to heal itself, and returns to the spirit world. For Ktunaxa, Grizzly Bear Spirit is a unique and indispensable source of collective as well as individual guidance, strength, and protection, and a necessary part of many Ktunaxa spiritual practices and beliefs. Qat’muk’s spiritual importance is deeply connected to its biological significance for living grizzly bears now and in the future.

For Further Information Contact:

Jesse Nicholas
Communication Manager
Ktunaxa Nation Council
(250) 489-2464 ext. 3175
jnicholas@ktunaxa.org
Ktunaxa Lands & Resources Newsletter and Updates

Did you know?

Did you know on March 30th, the Nadleh and Whut’en First Nation Traditional Leaders declared no development would take place on their Traditional Territory in the Northern Interior unless the Water Laws pertaining to their First Nations Water Management Policy were followed?

Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question

What is the term for counting the rings of the trees to find out how old they are? This method was recently used at Tobacco Plains to figure out that Ktunaxa practiced controlled burning every 7-8 years during the 1700’s.

To submit your answer: go to our Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Facebook page and private message us your answer or submit your answer by emailing nnicholas@ktunaxa.org. A randomly selected winner will be awarded a $25.00 gift card. The Deadline for submission is April 29th, 2016.

Congratulations to Natasha Burgoyne for winning last months Ktunaxa Jeopardy Question. Her correct answer cattail, won her a $25.00 gas card.

Bull River Fish Hatchery Open House

On April 23rd the Bull River Fish Hatchery will be hosting an Open House. All Ktunaxa Nation members are encouraged to attend. The Open House will take place at the Bull River Fish Hatchery located in Fort Steele.

?Aqam Winter Culture Camp

On March 14-16th ?Aqam hosted a culture camp up by Francis Lake. I was excited to attend. They provided daily activities for participants ranging from pine needle basket making, to moccasin making, and traditional games. I think it was a great turn out and a great atmosphere. I loved having all the elders out there teaching us and sharing stories. I think everyone involved really enjoyed themselves from the children to the elders and it was really great to have everyone all together. I really had a great time!

-Melanie Manuel (Nukinka)
Archaeology Guardian

On the first night there was a mini grand entry along with drumming and singing done by the Sookenai singers. During the ?Aqam Winter Culture Camp, the Jumbo wild film was shown while all of the participants enjoyed hot wings and nachos. Along with all of the traditional games, elder knowledge sharing and moccasin making, there was also waCkna making. This great event was catered by Frybread for Fun$, and sponsored by ?aqam Head start, Member Services and TKL. Keep your eyes and ears open for more information about the ?aqam Summer Camp that will be happening August 5-7, 2016.
Ktunaxa Word Search Contest

Complete the Word Search correctly and submit it to win a $25.00 gift card. There are many locations you can submit them to: Denise Walker - Ktunaxa Nation Government Building, Bonnie Harvey - Aqam Band Office, Chad Luke - Lower Kootenay Band Office, Nevada Nicholas - Akisq'wnuk Band Office or Dan Gravelle - Tobacco Plains Band Office. A winner will be randomly selected by a draw of name. Deadline for submission is April 29, 2016. Congratulations to Elisha Jimmy for winning last months Ktunaxa Word Search Contest. She handed in her correctly finished Ktunaxa Word Search and won a $25.00 gas card.
Duncan Reservoir Archaeology Project (RAP)

Open House and Artifact Viewing

What: Open House and viewing of artifacts from four years of archaeological field work at the Duncan Reservoir.

When: Opening ceremony on Thursday April 14th, 10:00 AM. The display will remain available to interested members of the community until noon on Friday April 15th.

Where: Ktunaxa Nation Government Building museum area (220 Cranbrook Street N, Cranbrook).

Who: All interested community members are encouraged to attend.

On Thursday April 14th and Friday April 15th, BC Hydro and Tipi Mountain Eco-Cultural Services are holding an open house displaying artifacts from the Duncan Reservoir during the BC Hydro Reservoir Archaeology Program (RAP). The open house will is being graciously hosted by the Ktunaxa Nation Council in the museum area of the Ktunaxa Nation Government Building in Cranbrook.

An opening ceremony will take place at 10:00 AM on Thursday, followed by a brief presentation by Tipi Mountain archaeologist Ian Tamasi. Time will be available for any who wish to share stories or speak. Tipi Mountain staff members will be available to answer any questions during the viewing. School groups will also be given tours on the 14th in the afternoon, with an introduction and brief discussion led by a Tipi Mountain archaeologist.

For questions, to express interest in speaking, or to arrange a guided tour of the artifacts, please contact Tipi Mountain at arch.info@tipimountain.com or (250) 420-2724.
Have you or other Ktunaxa Citizens you know, spent time in Mi č qaqsāmak?is Hunting, Fishing, Harvesting or Camping? We want to speak with you!!

The Ktunaxa Nation Council is conducting Traditional use Interviews to protect Ktunaxa Rights in the West Kootenays

If you feel you have any information to contribute or have stories from Elder’s past who had spent time in the area please contact our team.

Natasha Burgoyne: 250-489-2464 Ext. 4028
Robert Williams: 250-417-5380
Robin Alaxander: 250-417-6872
The Mandate of the Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency is to ensure that the lands and resources within the Ktunaxa Territory are effectively managed and protected for the benefits of the citizens, communities and government of the Ktunaxa Nation.

- Lands Sector Mandate