

**For Release
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Ktunaxa Nation Council Statement on *Fisheries Act* charges against Teck Coal Limited

There have been significant impacts to wu?u (the water) in Qukin ?ama?kis (Elk Valley) due to coal mining, and those impacts continue to grow today with Teck Coal Limited's operations. It is essential that there is an appropriate and achievable plan in place to ensure that Teck Coal Limited meets water quality limits and addresses impacts to wu?u and ?a·kxamis 'qapi qapsin (All Living Things). For many years the Ktunaxa Nation Council (KNC) has been actively engaged in government-to-government and government-to-industry work to hold accountable those responsible, and to contribute to addressing the considerable challenges we face with impacts to water quality. The value and significance of wu?u to the Ktunaxa Nation and in Qukin ?ama?kis must not be understated. The Ktunaxa Nation Council will continue to be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves - for the sake of wu?u, our future generations, and for ?a·kxamis 'qapi qapsin. It is a critical part of our role and responsibility in Qukin ?ama?kis to the Creator.

With respect to the recent *Fisheries Act* charges against Teck Coal Limited, the KNC provided a community impact statement to the court pursuant to section 722.2 of the Criminal Code. The statement identifies, in a general way, the harms and losses suffered by the Ktunaxa Nation from the deposition by Teck Coal Limited ("Teck") of selenium and calcite pollution into fish-bearing waters within ?amak?is Ktunaxa (Ktunaxa Territory). The intent of the illustration provided in the impact statement is to visually represent Ktunaxa "lifeways" within Qukin ?amak?is. This image is a product of Ktunaxa community participatory research drawn by two Ktunaxa artists - Darcy Luke and Marisa Phillips. It is meant to symbolize "Ktunaxa being Ktunaxa on the land" and the tangible and intangible connection between ?amak ? wu?u (the land and water), and ?a·kxamis 'qapi qapsin. This interconnectedness means nothing is in isolation; if wu?u is impacted – so in turn is everything else.

This case, the charges laid, and the fines assessed, are steps in acknowledging the harm that has been and continues to be done to ?amak ? wu?u (the land and water) by development impacts done without Ktunaxa consent.

For Further Information Contact:

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