

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Ktunaxa Nation Council Press Conference in Response to Supreme Court of Canada Judgment**

**WHEN:** Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 AM PDT

**WHERE:** First Nations Summit  
Suite 1200 - 100 Park Royal South  
West Vancouver, BC V7T 1A2

The Ktunaxa Nation Council will be holding a press conference in response to the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the case of 'Ktunaxa Nation Council and Kathryn Teneese, on their own behalf and on behalf of all citizens of the Ktunaxa Nation v. Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, et al,'.

Participating in the press conference will be Kathryn Teneese (Chair – Ktunaxa Nation Council), Robert Phillips (First Nations Summit Executive) and Peter Grant (Grant Huberman Barristers & Solicitors).

#### **BACKGROUND**

On March 17, 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) granted the Ktunaxa Nation Council leave to appeal the August 6, 2015, B.C. Court of Appeal decision regarding B.C.'s approval of a Master Development Agreement for a proposed ski resort in an area known as Qat'muk, an area integrally connected with Ktunaxa spiritual beliefs and practices.

The SCC appeal addresses not only whether the freedom of religion guarantee in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms encompasses Ktunaxa spiritual beliefs and practices in this case, but also the extent to which the Charter protects the beliefs and practices of other Aboriginal spiritual traditions. The appeal also addresses the proper way to characterize a section 35(1) Aboriginal right and the requirement of a decision-maker to consider the Charter when an affected party raises it prior to a decision.

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