

# **Esketemc Nation Supports Injunction Against Taseko**

## **For Immediate Release**

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The Esketemc Nation congratulates the Tsilhqot'in on obtaining an injunction to prevent Taseko Mines from beginning exploratory work for the New Prosperity mine. "The injunction signals that the province of BC must take First Nations' concerns about New Prosperity mine seriously and that it cannot avoid addressing First Nations rights and title, as previously proven in the first environmental assessment," says Chief Fred Robbins.

The exploratory work would pave the way for the New Prosperity mine, even though Taseko has not obtained the environmental approvals it requires from the provincial and federal governments in order for the mine to proceed.

"This injunction is a positive sign that courts won't allow industry or government to ignore First Nations while pushing ahead with work on New Prosperity that sets the stage for serious cumulative impacts and serious impacts to First Nations' rights and title," Chief Robbins continued. "It confirms that First Nations' rights and title cannot be ignored while Taseko takes a second-run at the environmental assessment process. We need to have meaningful consultation and accommodation on all aspects of the mine, including exploratory work. Without it, First Nations stand to lose the land we rely on for our traditional culture, food and ceremonial purposes for our future generations."

Esketemc Nation is opposed to the New Prosperity mine, particularly given the Federal Review Panel found that the original Prosperity mine Taseko proposed had the potential for serious adverse impacts to Esketemc's aboriginal title lands. The Panel was concerned about the impacts of a transmission line associated with the Prosperity Mine project and concluded that no accommodation would make up for the losses First Nations would suffer. However, nothing in the New Prosperity proposal will alleviate these losses to First Nations or address the serious impacts to Esketemc's rights and title.

"There has been no consultation on the New Prosperity so far," said Chief Robbins, "and it seems that Taseko is trying to push its mine ahead without offering to meet with Esketemc to discuss how its plans will impact on our Aboriginal rights, our title, and our culture." This is about our Nation's future, and the future of these lands to all First Nations. We stand firm with the Tsilhqot'in to protect these lands, and Taseko and the governments need to hear that."

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