



MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION

Honour the Beauty of Mother Earth

July 1, 2010

Jim Prentice, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Email: Printice.J@parl.gc.ca

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**XENI GWETIN FIRST
NATIONS GOVERNMENT**

Dear Mr. Prentice:

We are writing on behalf of Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government (XGFNG) to provide moral and political support regarding an issue which affects all of us in this great Nation.

We are all aware that Lakes in Canada are being reclassified as "tailings impoundment areas" which exempts them from the protection of the Fisheries Act, allowing metal mining companies to dump toxins into them. Michipicoten First Nation is all too familiar with the impacts that mining has had in our own communities here in Northeastern Ontario and we have taken a very proactive role in developing and communicating our concerns regarding environmental issues with the mining industry. The duty to consult is incumbent at all levels of government and industry.

The Tshilqot'in Nation have exercised its traditional and treaty rights for many generations, and oppose a project that a BC based mining company has applied to drain Fish Lake for waste rock storage and to use Fish Creek and Little Fish Lake as tailings impoundment areas for the Prosperity Mine, a gold-copper mining project. This would contaminate the salmon bearing Taseko River and eventually the Chilcoten River which empties into the Fraser River.

We urge you to protect this important watershed by amendments to the Fisheries Act and stop the destruction of our lakes and rivers by metal mining companies in Canada. The impact of corporate greed and big business and the lack of sufficient government control have been well demonstrated through the Gulf of Mexico disaster, the Exxon disaster and the devastating impacts through arsenic poisoning from mining, loss of habitat and species at risk in rural First Nation communities. As caretakers of the land we ask you to honour and protect our Mother Earth and her creatures and our rights to clean air, safe water and the continued propagation of all species and creatures on earth.

Sincerely,

Chief Joe Buckell and Council