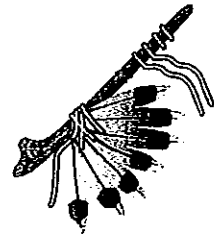


SIMPCW FIRST NATION

"People of the North Thompson River"



32100-1013402
CTC

July 8, 2010

Hon. Jim Prentice
Minister of the Environment
Government of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

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JUL 20 2010

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**XENI GWETIN FIRST
NATIONS GOVERNMENT**

Dear Mr. Prentice,

Please be advised that Simpcw First Nation supports the Xeni Gwit'en in their struggle to save the Fish Creek and Fish Lake watershed from destruction under the Taseko Mine project to convert this pristine fish habitat into a tailings pond for toxic mine waste. As a First Nation community that relies on the Fraser River salmon fishery, we are deeply concerned about any industrial activity of this type that is likely to further pollute fish habitat and salmon migration routes within the Fraser basin, upon which we and other First Nations communities depend to feed our families. We trust that you will assert your authority as Minister of the Environment to prevent the destruction of fish and wildlife habitat, and First Nations aboriginal interests by the Taseko Mines proposal. The so-called Prosperity Mine plan in its present form will only lead to the further impoverishment of First Nations people, our traditional resource base and the cultural values on the land base that are so vital to our communities. Surely this proposed mining project needs sober second thought before setting in motion a permitting process that would generate serious ongoing conflict with affected First Nations. Please advise me of how you intend to deal with this issue, as your decisions will have a bearing on the long-term well being of all First Nations with an aboriginal interest in the Fraser salmon fishery, including Simpcw First Nation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Chief Keith Matthew
SimpCW First Nation

Cc. Chief Marilyn Baptiste
Xeni Gwet'in First Nation Government