

Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly
Marius Auer, Communications Lead
250-378-1864
communications@cna-trust.ca

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CITXW NLAKA'PAMUX ASSEMBLY ANNOUNCES RENEWAL OF MANDATE, SUPPORTING PARTICIPATING BANDS IN ALL MINERAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES ON THEIR TERRITORY

n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx Territory – The Citxw Nlaka'pamux Assembly (CNA), representing eight n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx Bands (listed below), is pleased to announce the renewal of the Territorial Stewardship Department (TSD) mandate, marking a significant shift in how mineral resource activities are reviewed within n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx territory, and strengthening n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx jurisdiction.

The previous mandate, established in 2015, stated: "The Territorial Stewardship Department (TSD) was established in 2015 as in-house technical expertise to support the eight Participating Bands in implementing the Highland Valley Copper (HVC) Participation Agreement." Since its inception, the TSD has developed a strong technical capacity, rooted in n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx knowledge, values, and priorities, related to mining.

Under the renewed mandate, the TSD will now: "Support the Participating Bands in making informed decisions relating **to all mineral resource activities in n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx territory** by clearly identifying, mitigating, and resolving potential impacts to n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx rights, title, values and interests." This is to strengthen n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx jurisdiction within n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx territory and bring the communities' process to the foreground of any mining proponent's priorities. This will ensure that tm̄íx^w ¹ and people are protected and will promote sustainable land use, enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities.

The Participating Bands may use the services of the TSD, at their discretion, to support their decision-making. The Participating Bands will retain their full, exclusive, decision-making authority with respect to mineral resource activities outside of the Highland Valley Copper Mine area. This process does not replace engagement and the crown's legal duty to consult with the eight Participating Bands.

Chief Christine Walkem, Chief of Cook's Ferry and Chair of the CNA Board, commented, "This renewed mandate reaffirms n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx processes within the territory and strengthens our role in integrating n̄t̄eʔk̄épmx values throughout the mining lifecycle. It ensures that our communities have a more significant voice and influence over mineral resource activities."

Nicole Johnny, Executive Director of CNA, added, "This work improves decision-making processes of the CNA Participating Bands and will enhance our cumulative understanding of mineral resource activities. This allows us to advocate more effectively for policy, legislative, and regulatory changes that benefit our communities."

Sarah Desrosiers, Territorial Stewardship Manager for CNA, stated, "The renewal of the TSD mandate enables us to maintain and enhance our strong relationships with the Participating Bands, ¹ tm̄íx^w is understood not only as ground, earth, or land, but tm̄íx^w is also a more encompassing term meaning the world in its entirety, under the earth, in the earth, above the earth, the water in all its forms, the winds, and the skies.

governments, proponents, and other organizations. This collaborative approach ensures that nteʔképmx priorities are consistently at the forefront of mineral resource developments.”

About the Citxw Nlaka’pamux Assembly – The Citxw Nlaka’pamux Assembly (CNA) is a not-for-profit organization that was formed in 2013 to manage and administer the agreements relating to Teck Highland Valley Copper Mine (HVC) on behalf of **Ashcroft Indian Band, Boston Bar First Nation, Coldwater Indian Band, Cook’s Ferry Indian Band, Nicomen Indian Band, Nooaitch Indian Band, Shackan Indian Band and Siska Indian Band (the Participating Bands)**. CNA work is rooted in thousands of years of history and a legacy of protecting the nteʔképmx people and our culture, values, and territory. Headquartered in Merritt, B.C., the CNA provides training and job readiness along with cultural, social, and technical programming to the over 2780 members of the eight Participating Bands.

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