



Okanagan Indian Band

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

OKANAGAN INDIAN BAND ASSERTS ITS OWNERSHIP OF LAKESHORE ROAD

July 27, 2009

The Okanagan Indian Band Council has officially reconfirmed its ownership of the portion of Lakeshore Road that crosses the Okanagan Band's Priest's Valley (Indian Reserve No. 6). The City of Vernon has recently claimed that it owns the road. Chief Fabian Alexis stated that "the City of Vernon has betrayed that it knows little about the history or legal status of this road. Neither the Province nor the City has ever acquired legal rights to the road".

The Okanagan Indian Band Council points out that the portion of Lakeshore Road was never built or improved in compliance with legal requirements. The portion of the road through the reserve remains the property of the Okanagan Indian Band today.

The Okanagan Indian Band Council has repeatedly asserted that the road is in trespass on the reserve and has filed a Specific Claim with Canada seeking a resolution to this longstanding problem. The Band's concerns are exacerbated by the fact that some local residents use the road to gain vehicular access to the Band's Kin Beach, where their conduct has given rise to Band concerns for public health, safety and proper land use.

The Okanagan Indian Band will take the appropriate steps to protect their reserve land from trespass and abuse.

For more information, please contact:

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