



SENK'L'IP NEWS

BROWN'S CREEK SPECIAL EDITION

CONTENTS

Pg 2-10: Brown's Creek

Pg 11-12: Announcements



Okanagan Indian Band announces end of logging in community's drinking supply watersheds.

For Immediate Release
February 23, 2010

Okanagan Nation Territory, Vernon - In response to threats from Tolko to commence logging of the watershed that supplies the majority of the 1,800 residents of the Okanagan Indian Band with their drinking water, the Okanagan Indian Band membership commenced a protective blockade of the Browns Creek watershed at 7:00 a.m. Monday, February 22nd at the Okanagan campsite located near Bouleau Lake.

"This is not an action we took lightly, nor is it once we commenced without exhausting all of our legal options," said Okanagan Indian Band Chief Fabian Alexis. "However given the active collusion between the Ministry of Forests and Tolko and the continued indifference of the federal government, we had no choice but to act to protect our water supply."

"The fact is that when our reserves were first established it was with the clear understanding that our water supplies would be maintained for future generations," noted Chief Alexis. "Instead the federal government abandoned its fiduciary obligation and allowed the Province of British Columbia to sell off our water rights thus resulting in a number of fish bearing creeks that run through our reserve being reduced to dry gullies."

"Even as these creeks ran dry the province continued to authorize the industrial clear cutting of the watersheds that provide our drinking water, thus presenting a clear threat to the safety and well being of all residents both indigenous and non-indigenous who live on and near our reserve," added Chief Alexis.

"As usual, not a peep has been heard from Ottawa over this matter," noted Chief Alexis. "Ottawa has through its consistent indifference yet again sown the seeds of a conflict that was utterly avoidable had they ever showed any interest in living up to their fiduciary obligations."

"Every other non-indigenous community would as a matter of course have their watersheds protected," stated Chief Alexis. "Thus what we demand for ourselves is a right every non-indigenous Canadian already expects; to have the right to clean drinking water."

"It is with this fundamental right in mind that I am today announcing the end of all logging in the watersheds that provide our community's water supply," said Chief Alexis.

"Thus no commercial logging will be permitted in these areas until further notice. Finally in order to avoid any further repeat or escalation of this conflict we would also advise the Province of British Columbia to stop issuing cutting permits in areas where their title to the land is in dispute and is still a matter to be resolved by the courts," concluded Chief Alexis.

A map showing the areas where commercial logging is prohibited will be issued by the Okanagan Indian Band later this week.

-30-

For more information please contact:
Chief Fabian Alexis cell (250) 306-2838, phone (250) 542-4328

Senk'l'ip News

Editor: Tetku Parker
Ph: (250) 542-4328
Fx: (250) 542-4990
tetkuc@hotmail.com
Mail: 12420 Westside Rd., Vernon, BC, V1H 2A4

Chief: Fabian Alexis
Councillors: Homer Alexis, Mollie Bono, Bill Cohen, June Cole, Tim Isaac, Coola Louis, Diane Louis, Raymond Marchand, Rhoda Poschenrieder & William R. Wilson

Advertising Rates



Full Page:\$200
3/4 Page:\$104
1/2 Page:\$ 78
1/4 Page:\$ 55
1/8 Page:\$ 27
1/16 Page:\$ 14

Okanagan Indian Band
12420 Westside Road, Vernon BC, V1H-2A4

Okanagan members,

The Okanagan Indian established checkpoints on Westside Road and began blockading this morning at 7 a.m. We are still in need of volunteers, a signup sheet is available at the OKIB Public Works Office.

We had approximately 50-60 people at the blockade this morning, we will have more updates to follow, also you can find a the Facebook group "Brown Creeks Protection For Our Watershed"; our team will continue to update this site, so if you have access, check it out and encourage others to visit this site.

We are still accepting donations for foods, supplies, etc, if you are able to contribute, contact the Public Works Office at 250.542.3444.



OKANAGAN NATION SLAMS GOVERNMENT INDIFFERENCE OVER SAFETY OF OKIB DRINKING WATER
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE - February 19, 2010

(Okanagan Nation Territory, Vernon B.C.) Grand Chief Stewart Phillip today slammed the "callous indifference" shown by the Minister of Forests. "I received a letter from Minister Pat Bell that makes it clear that the safety of the drinking water that supplies most of the 1800 people who live on the Okanagan Indian Band reserve is not as important to him as facilitating short term profits for Tolko."

"This issue isn't just about consultation, although the consultation Tolko has done has been less than perfunctory. It isn't just about jurisdiction, even though who owns the forests is a matter that is presently before the courts, it first and foremost an issue about community health and safety," declared Grand Chief Phillip.

"The Browns Creek watershed provides much of the drinking and irrigation water for the Okanagan Indian Band. This is the same watershed that Tolko is intent on logging and the province of BC has granted permission for them to clearcut," said Chief Phillip.

"There has been a deafening silence from the federal government over this matter," noted Phillip, "thus once again it is up to the Okanagan Nation community members to defend their own interests as they are not afforded the same protection as those living in non-aboriginal communities."

"The fact that this conflict has continued to escalate is a direct result of active collusion between the government and Tolko and their utter disregard for not only our Aboriginal Title and Rights but the very health and safety of our families," concluded Grand Chief Phillip.

-30-

For more information please contact:
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip at 604-684-0231 or cell 250-490-5314

Okanagan Indian Band to establish checkpoint on Westside Road full blockade to be voted on by band membership this Saturday
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE - February 19, 2010

(Okanagan Nation Territory, Vernon B.C.)- In response to the imminent threat of logging within the watershed that supplies the Okanagan Indian Band with much of its drinking water, Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band today announced that "all options were on the table" in order to protect his community's water supply.

"The federal government has done nothing to protect the 1,800 people who live on the Okanagan Indian Band reserve," noted Chief Alexis. "The provincial government has made it clear that the financial interests of Tolko are of greater concern to them than the health and safety of the people who derive their drinking and irrigation water from the Browns Creek Watershed."

"When it comes to protecting the watersheds that supply Vernon with its water, government agencies would not hesitate to act, but suddenly when it involves our community our concerns are discounted. This systemic racism will not stand," declared Chief Alexis.

"We are also incensed by the fact that various Tolko contractors have continued to use Westside Road despite the signs clearly posted on our reserve. Thus we will be establishing a checkpoint on the portion of Westside road that we have jurisdiction over," said Chief Alexis.

"A meeting of all concerned OKIB members will also be held from 11:00 am until 1:00pm this Saturday. The key resolution will be whether or not the community wishes to proceed with a full blockade of Tolko forestry operations in order to protect a key source of our community's water," said Chief Alexis.

"I would also remind everyone that title over these forest lands is something that is before the courts, therefore for the provincial government to allow as much clear cut logging as possible around our reserve before title reverts to us is not only utterly cynical it is in this instance thoroughly irresponsible," concluded Chief Alexis.

-30-

For more information please contact:
Chief Fabian Alexis cell (250) 306-2838, phone (250) 542-4328



URGENT MEDIA ADVISORY

February 22, 2010

Okanagan Indian Band to begin blockade at 7:00 am

Okanagan Nation Territory, Vernon - Please be advised that in response to threats from Tolko to commence logging of the watershed that supplies the majority of the 1,800 residents of the Okanagan Indian Band with their drinking water, the band membership will be commencing a protective blockade of the watershed starting at 7:00 a.m. Monday, February 22nd at the Okanagan campsite located near Bouleau Lake.

The media are welcome to attend however due to the icy winter road conditions a 4x4 vehicle is required to reach the camp. Media needing a ride can arrange one by contacting the Okanagan Indian Band Territorial Stewardship Office at (250) 542-7132.

Anyone attending the camp is advised to dress warmly with proper winter attire as temperatures will likely be below freezing even during the day.

Under the authority of the Okanagan Nation, a parking area will be designated. Parking will be free to the media, OKIB members and supporters but all forestry vehicles (both corporate and ministry) will be charged a parking fee of \$10 per day.

All proceeds from the parking fee will go to the Okanagan Indian Band's save the watershed fund. Please note that title to the area is a matter that is presently before the courts and that the Crown has been unable to produce any documentation showing acquisition of title from the Okanagan Nation.

-30-

For more information please contact:

Chief Fabian Alexis cell (250) 306-2838, phone (250) 542-4328



Check out the facebook page:

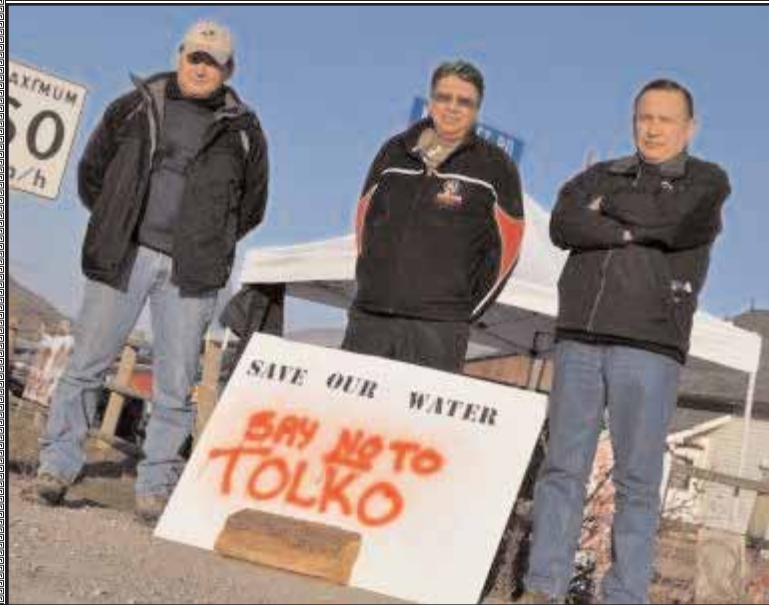
Browns Creek Protection for our Watershed & Event: Brown's Creek Protect out Watershed

"We as a community need to stand up and protect our watersheds from being logged!! We need to stand up for our children and our grandchildren!"

Okanagan Indian Band's Blockade Getting International Attention

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2010

By Kathy Michaels



Chief Fabian Alexis, band member Dan Wilson, and Grand Chief Stewart Phillip have set up a blockade at Browns Creek near Vernon.

Union of BC Indian Chiefs Supports Okanagan Indian Band in Browns Creek Faceoff
Press Release
February 21, 2010

(Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, February 21, 2010) Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, President of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs stated today "The UBCIC is deeply concerned about the escalating tensions between the Okanagan Indian Band and Tolko Industries. In particular, Tolko's insistence that come tomorrow morning, they will attempt to move equipment and crews into the Browns Creek watershed."

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, the Okanagan Indian Band held an emergency General Band Meeting. After being briefed on the latest developments, Elders and band members unanimously passed a motion to establish check-points on Westside Road for the purposes of monitoring and regulating traffic flows through their community. All Tolko employees, contract logging crews and equipment have been banned from passage over and through Westside Road. Finally, the Elders and members of the Okanagan Indian Band authorized the immediate establishment of a blockade in the Brown's Creek Watershed.

Grand Chief Phillip stated "The UBCIC fully supports the Okanagan Indian Band's decision to protect their community's water supply, their archaeological heritage and history and to pursue all available steps to ensure that their Title and Rights are recognized, respected and protected. The UBCIC calls on all First Nations throughout BC to rally support for the courageous stand taken by Chief Fabian Alexis, Elders and members of the Okanagan Indian Band."

The watershed is part of ongoing litigation whereas on January 29, 2010 the BC Supreme Court issued a decision regarding archaeology proposals submitted by Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan Indian Band and Tolko Industries. Madam Justice Brown accepted Tolko's archaeology proposal. Madam Justice Brown's pronouncement follows her previous decision of January 11, 2010 that Tolko could log eight (8) cutblocks in the Browns Creek Watershed, provided that archaeological sites were protected.

"The Courts failed to deal with the proprietary nature of Aboriginal Title to the lands and resources within the territory," said Grand Chief Phillip. "With this decision, third party interests are protected at the expense of the community's drinking water, archaeological history and their constitutionally protected rights. Consequently, the UBCIC will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Okanagan Indian Band to ensure their community's water, history and rights are defended."

- 30 -

Media inquires:

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Union of BC Indian Chiefs
Phone: (250) 490-5314

Only a day has passed since the Okanagan Indian Band blockaded Tolko's entrance to the Browns Creek watershed and it's already become fodder for international news coverage.

A German film crew was at the blockade near Vernon yesterday morning, said Chief Fabian Alexis, from the roadside check-point set up in front of the band's public works office on Westside Road.

And with hoardes of Olympic media close at hand, it's suspected more will follow to chronicle the breakdown of negotiations that in some form have taken the better part of the decade.

Concerns over Brown's Creek are long-standing. Since 2003 the band has been before the courts dealing with it in some form and contending further logging in that area would threaten the viability of the surrounding community's water supply while damaging archeological sites. In recent years they've taken on Tolko Industries. Talks over the chunk of land have consistently been peaceful, but this Saturday they reached a boiling point. Believing Tolko Industries would soon start moving equipment and crews into the watershed, band elders called an emergency meeting.

Once there, the 100 in attendance voted unanimously to blockade and by Monday 60 band members were at the site this morning when Tolko representatives came by to assess the situation, said Grand Chief Stewart Phillip.

"Tolko arrived at 9:45 a.m. and their senior officials approached us and singled out Chief Fabian Alexis and myself and asked us if we would allow equipment and crews passage," he explained. "We said 'no.'" The exchange was cordial, said Phillip, adding that it was repeated twice and seemingly scripted. He added it is likely Tolko will be invoking an injunction order sometime this week.

While the Okanagan band insists Tolko Industries doesn't have a right to log while land claims remain unresolved, a B.C. court ruled Feb. 11 that the Vernon-based logging company could go ahead with cutting in the Browns Creek area following an archeological consultation.

That consultation was less than genuine and the decision was ultimately flawed, contend both Stewart and Alexis -who have gained the support of the Union of British Columbian Indian Chiefs -and that's why they've taken this course of action.

Stewart pointed out that it would be impossible to conduct an archeological investigation with four feet of snow on the ground, but Tolko did it anyway. When they went to bring their new evidence back to the judge, they were told she was on vacation and they'd have to go another route. Blockading, ultimately, is what was chosen.

"The provincial government has made it clear that the financial interests of Tolko are of greater concern to them than the health and safety of the people who derive their drinking and irrigation water from the Browns Creek watershed," said Chief Alexis.

"When it comes to protecting the watersheds that supply Vernon with its water, government agencies would not hesitate to act, but suddenly when it involves our community, our concerns are discounted."

It's an issue that has an impact beyond First Nation people as well, he said, pointing out that here are many non-natives in the region who would be impacted.

Perhaps that's why those who are set up at a check-point are receiving a fairly warm reception.

As they drove by signs bearing messages like, "Save our water, say no to Tolko" drivers of all races waved, honked and gave thumbs up to those who were taking on check-stop duty.

"There's been some good suggestions and support from our neighbours who don't just reside on the reserve," said Alexis.

Throughout the process, Tolko representatives have said the area of dispute, which has been heavily impacted by the mountain pine beetle epidemic, is a vital timber supply for the company's sawmill in Armstrong.

At deadline, Tolko and government officials could not be reached.



Dear Chief Alexis:

I am writing in support of the courageous stand you, your council and your community are taking in defense of your water supply.

The best way for us to strengthen our aboriginal title and rights is to exercise them. Over most of BC the Crown has no treaty no bill of sale that demonstrates how they came to be in possession of the land they claim is theirs. There is no document that says we ceded, surrendered or sold away our land or our rights.

I have already written to the Minister of Forests and the Premier of BC expressing our absolute shock and anger at the Province's position in regards to Tree Farm License ("TFL") 49 and its continued silence on Tolko's industrial logging plans in the Browns Creek Watersheds. The Province has been aware of the Okanagan Nation's Title claim to the Watersheds since the beginning of the Wilson litigation in 1999 and this is yet another example of the Province working in concert with Forest companies to clear cut as quickly as possible before the Crown loses title to these lands.

Through our collective efforts we have been able to force Tolko to scale back the size of their clear cutting operations.

As the Okanagan Nation Alliance, we will continue to support the Okanagan Indian Band and know that as a Nation we will not stand idly by and watch the destruction of our Watersheds, water and culture. If necessary, we will fight cut block by cut block and we will take all steps necessary to protect Okanagan Title and Rights.

Sincerely,
OKANAGAN NATIONALLIANCE
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
Chairman



Okanagan Indian Band

12420 Westside Road • Vernon, B.C. • V1T 7Z3
Telephone: (250) 542-4328 • Facsimile (250) 542-4990
Email: okibadmin@okanagan.org

February 12, 2010

Brad Thorlakson
CEO, Tolko
PO Box 39
Vernon, BC V1T 6M1

Attention: Brad Thorlakson

Dear Mr. Thorlakson:

We write in response to your Company representative's phone call on February 10, 2010 informing us that Tolko and Tolko Contractors will be traveling south on Westside Road through Okanagan Indian Reserve # 1 to access Sugar Loaf Forestry Road. This traffic will include Logging Trucks (empty) and crew vehicles.

As you should already be aware the Province of British Columbia does not have jurisdiction over the portion of Westside Road that is within Okanagan I.R. #1. The Okanagan Indian Band does have jurisdiction over this portion of the road; a fact your company itself acknowledged when it entered into a road use agreement with us which expired in June of 2009.

Given the expiration of this agreement, and given Tolko's on-going refusal to engage in a meaningful dialogue to resolve our concerns regarding the Brown's Creek watershed, pleased be advised that the Okanagan Indian Band denies access by Tolko Industries and any of its affiliated contractors on Westside Road.

All such vehicles will be stopped and turned back and if necessary impounded.

Sincerely,

Chief Fabian Alexis
Okanagan Indian Band

CC: Hon. Pat Bell, Minister of Forests
CC: Grand Chief Stewart Philip, Chairperson, Okanagan Nation Alliance

AFN National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo issues strong support of Okanagan Indian Band's actions to protect its community and Territories



OTTAWA, Feb. 20 /CNW/ - Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo issued the following statement supporting the Okanagan Indian Band in their efforts to protect their people and territory.

"As National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, and on behalf of our executive, I would like to offer my support to Chief Fabian Alexis and the members of the Okanagan Indian Band in their efforts to protect their community's water supply. The health and safety of the citizens of the Okanagan Indian Band must take priority, as should the Crown's duty to consult with First Nations prior to development on traditional territories.

First Nations support a balanced approach to economic development, but we must be involved, as it is our lands, our lives and our communities directly impacted. Development must be responsible and sustainable based on acceptable standards for consultation and accommodation so no one (First Nations or industry) gets caught in the middle.

I encourage all levels of government to work with First Nation leadership to ensure First Nations are adequately consulted and accommodated in any initiative affecting our lands and resources. This includes free, prior and informed consent by First Nations when it comes to economic development impacting First Nation territories."

In response to the imminent threat to the drinking and irrigation water of the Okanagan Indian Band, the community plans to establish a checkpoint Saturday on Westside Road and to hold a community meeting regarding access by Tolko Industries Limited to prevent industrial logging operations at the Brown Creek Watershed.

-30-

For further information:

Jenna Young, Communications Officer at (613) 314-8157 or jyoung@afn.ca



OKANAGAN NATION ALLIANCE

3255 C Shaanon Lake Road, Westbank, BC V4T 1V4
 Phone 250-707-0095 Toll Free 1-866-662-9609 Fax 250-707-0166 www.sylx.org

Okanagan Indian Band to close Westside Road to all Tolko and Tolko contractor vehicles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release - February 15, 2010

(Okanagan Territory-Vernon, B.C.) – Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band today publicly released letter sent on Friday to Tolko making it clear that their vehicles and those of their contractors would not be allowed on the portion of Westside Road that runs through Okanagan Indian Band Reserve #1.

“This letter has come after Tolko has repeatedly refused to engage in meaningful dialogue to resolve our concerns and then discounted the Archaeological Overview Assessment process concerning the Browns Creek Watershed,” said Chief Alexis.

When the Okanagan Indian Band challenged Tolko’s plans to log eight cut blocks before Spring breakup Madam Justice Brown agreed that Tolko’s logging would cause irreparable harm and destroy archaeology that is important not only to the Okanagan Nation but the public as a whole. “She then ordered Tolko to redo its archaeological work, but since this order, Tolko has continued to act in bad faith in this process,” noted Chief Alexis.

“The Browns Creek watershed is also of paramount concern to our community as that is the source of our drinking water. The Browns Creek Watershed should no more be logged than the watersheds that supply water to Metro Vancouver or the Capital Regional District,” added Chief Alexis.

“In addition to refusing to engage in meaningful dialogue, Tolko has continued to provoke by telling us they intend to run their logging trucks and contractor vehicles through the reserve near where our families live and children are playing. This is completely unacceptable,” stated Chief Alexis.

“I have also made it clear that if Tolko or their contractors attempt to travel through our reserve lands that we will stop their vehicles and turn them back and if necessary impound them,” said Chief Alexis.

“I would also add in closing that it is irresponsible of the province to allow such logging to continue within the Okanagan Nation’s traditional territory and so close to our reserves when the jurisdiction over these forestry lands that have been in front of the courts for the past 10 years. This issue remains a matter that is presently before the courts,” concluded Chief Alexis.

Under the authority of the Chief and Council any defiance will not be tolerated.

-30-

For more information please contact:

Chief Fabian Alexis cell (250) 306-2838, phone (250) 542-4328



Okanagan Indian Band Chief slams Tolko's decision to log watershed that supplies OKIB's drinking water as well as government complicity.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 February 16, 2010**



Okanagan Nation Territory, Vernon - Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band today reacted with anger to news that Tolko was proceeding with logging of the Browns Creek Watershed, the watershed which supplies much of the Okanagan Indian Band's water supply.

"Their actions seem designed to spark the maximum confrontation with the Okanagan Indian Band and the Okanagan Nation," said Chief Alexis.

"Tolko has refused to share with us their archaeological report in spite of a court direction. The more we have raised our concerns and objections to Tolko logging the watershed that supplies our drinking water, the more determined they have become to log it," noted Chief Alexis.

"I guess Tolko wants to try and show us whose boss. Perhaps Tolko's owners might want to consider the fact that title to the lands they are now logging is a matter that is still before the courts. Tolko may well find itself in a situation where the TFL and logging permits are invalidated and they will have to then deal directly with us for permission to log within the Okanagan Nations traditional territories. So perhaps Tolko's owners might want to look beyond the next fiscal quarter and see what sort of relationship they want to have with us," warned Chief Alexis.

"To that end I would encourage Tolko's CEO Brad Thorlakson to meet with me rather than to continue to escalate the situation to a point where everyone loses," said Chief Alexis. "I would also request that he share with us the archaeological reports that have been done to date."

"I also want to let the Province of British Columbia know that we are well aware of their complicity in allowing this situation to get to this point," noted Chief Alexis. "A government that was interested in paying more than symbolic lip service to aboriginal title and rights would not have granted cutting permits to Tolko on lands where two court orders provide that the Okanagan can gather evidence of aboriginal title and over which the Province has admitted that the Okanagan have an aboriginal right to harvest trees."

"It seems that Forest Minister Pat Bell and Aboriginal Affairs Minister George Abbott are quite content to let the confrontation continue to escalate," added Chief Alexis. "If this was a watershed supplying water to Kelowna or Vancouver, the fragile water supply would be protected."

"In addition to protecting our water supply we are also concerned about Tolko's disregard for property belonging to the Okanagan Indian Band and its members. We have informed Tolko that the Teepee located at 24km on Bouleau is not located on any access road and thus does not constitute a blockade. It is also unable to be moved as it is frozen to the ground. If Tolko and/or its contractors choose to vandalise our property then they can expect further escalation and run the risk of similar treatment in kind," concluded Chief Alexis.

-30-

**For more information please contact:
 Chief Fabian Alexis cell (250) 306-2838, phone (250) 542-4328**

BC SUPREME COURT SAYS TOLKO CANNOT DISREGARD OKANAGAN NATION'S TITLE EVIDENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 PRESS RELEASE - January 12, 2010**

(Okanagan Territory - Westbank, BC) - Today, Madam Justice Brown, of the BC Supreme Court issued her decision in cross-injunction applications filed by the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and Tolko Industries in relation to Tolko's plans to conduct industrial, clearcut logging in the Browns Creek Watershed. Madam Justice Brown allowed a "conditional" approval of Tolko's application but only with respect to eight (8) Mountain Pine Beetle-infected cutblocks and did not provide the full relief sought by the Company. Rather, the decision provided for a (2) two-week period during which the parties are to negotiate how preservation of archaeological evidence of the Okanagan Nation can occur.

Chief Tim Manuel of the Upper Nicola Band stated "The BC Supreme Court has reaffirmed that our national government, the Okanagan Nation Alliance's interests cannot be ran roughshod by industry." Chief Manuel further stated "We regard this as a victory, in that Tolko cannot simply go into our traditional territory and do as it pleases. It must respect the Okanagan Nation's relationship to the land."

The issue of Okanagan Title and jurisdiction to the Browns Creek Watershed have been before the Court in the Wilson proceedings, which is being litigated under an historic costs award. Since 2005, the Court ordered that evidence gathering for Aboriginal title can be gathered within the Watersheds under the costs order. The Province has also made an admission that the Okanagan have an Aboriginal right to harvest trees in the Watersheds for domestic purposes. Nevertheless, in spite of conflicting "titles", the Province issued cutting permits to Tolko Industries.

Based on expert evidence put forward by the Okanagan Nation, Madam Justice Brown rejected the Province's current archaeological policy that assumes aboriginal occupation and archaeologically significant areas to be constricted to valley bottoms and near bodies of water. She stated that:

"I am satisfied, however, that Tolko's proposed harvest on these particular cutblocks will likely destroy sensitive archaeological sites and artefacts and will cause irreparable harm.

...Although Tolko says that it has satisfied the MFR and the cutblocks are at high elevations and hence unlikely to have any archaeological significance, Tolko did not conduct on site archaeological investigations.

She found that the higher elevations within the Browns Creek Watershed did contain important archaeological evidence and concluded that the ONA and the public at large would likely suffer irreparable harm if Tolko logs the proposed cutblocks without restriction.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Chair of the Okanagan Nation Alliance stated that "The Browns Creek Watershed is of cultural, spiritual and economic importance to the Okanagan Nation - it is a significantly important part of our spiritual heritage and landscape. The BC Supreme Court has confirmed today that Okanagan rights, interests and title must be fully acknowledged and properly addressed. The Province has created the problem where two conflicting interests exist and yet have remained utterly silent on the issue." Grand Chief Phillip concluded by stating "The ONA has been recognized as a national entity and we will continue to exercise our authority and jurisdiction in Okanagan territory."

Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band stated "The Okanagan Nation Alliance has concerns that extend beyond the archaeological importance stressed in the decision. While this is an important factor, the decision did not fully contemplate the ecological and cultural impacts of industrial logging." Chief Alexis further stated that "The expert evidence presented has concluded that the Browns Creek Watershed cannot sustain industrial logging contemplated by Tolko for the watersheds, which will result in irreversible impacts on native vegetation and will amount to major environmental restructuring."

The Okanagan Nation Alliance is the political organization representing seven (7) Okanagan bands with a mandate to protect and advocate for Okanagan Title, Rights and Lands.

For more information:

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, ONA - (250) 490-5314
 Chief Fabian Alexis, OKIB - (250) 306-2838



BC SUPREME COURT SAYS TOLKO MUST CONDUCT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK PRIOR TO LOGGING FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE - February 2, 2010

(Okanagan Territory - Westbank, B.C.) - Today, Madam Justice Brown, of the BC Supreme Court issued her final decision regarding the archaeology proposals submitted by Okanagan Nation Alliance & Okanagan Indian Band and Tolko Industries Ltd. on January 29, 2010. Madam Justice Brown's final pronouncement follows her previous decision on January 11, 2010 that Tolko could log eight (8) cutblocks in the Browns Creek Watershed, provided that a process was put in place to protect archaeological evidence.

Madam Justice Brown accepted Tolko's archaeology proposal, subject to clarifications around Okanagan Nation involvement, which included providing input into the archaeological overview assessment and including Okanagan participation in on-ground assessments with an archaeologist. She also stated that Tolko must also consider post-1846 archaeology, which will impact the archaeological classification of the eight (8) cutblocks. As well, if there is any question on classification of archaeological potential, the Court stated that it is expected that the archaeologist will err on the side of caution and provide a higher classification, as protecting Okanagan archaeology was a prime concern for the judge in this case.

Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) stated "I am disappointed that the BC Supreme Court did not appreciate the importance of the trailmapping that must be conducted to preserve our title evidence for litigation in the Wilson case. The Okanagan Nation has historically used the Browns Creek Watersheds and continues to use it for traditional foods, hunting and gathering purposes." Chief Alexis further stated that "I am confident that if the archaeologist does his work properly, that he will find more archaeology within the eight (8) cutblocks that cannot be disregarded."

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Okanagan Nation Alliance stated "The Okanagan Nation Alliance is disappointed, that, once again, the Courts have side-stepped and turned a 'blind eye' to the proprietary or ownership dimension of our Aboriginal Title interests to the lands and resources within our territory." Grand Chief Phillip concluded by stating "Consequently, we shall be forced to continue to fight the unresolved Aboriginal title battle cutblock by cutblock, mining permit by mining permit and pipeline proposal by pipeline proposal."

The Okanagan Nation Alliance is the political organization representing seven (7) Okanagan bands with a mandate to protect and advocate for Okanagan Title, Rights and Lands.

For more information:
Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, ONA - (250) 490-5314
Chief Fabian Alexis, OKIB - (250) 306-2838

**Band considers forestry blockade
By Richard Rolke - Vernon Morning Star**

A dispute on the west side of Okanagan Lake is escalating. Members of the Okanagan Indian Band held a checkpoint on Westside Road Saturday to look for Tolko vehicles, and they also voted on whether to blockade logging operations at Browns Creek. Chief Fabian Alexis says his members are concerned that logging by Tolko will put their watershed at risk. "Do you think Vancouver and Victoria would idly sit by and let harm come to their water?" he said. The results of the vote were not known at press time, but one possibility is for the band to resume camps at Browns Creek. That's been discussed," said Alexis. Band members established camps in October to gather archeological evidence but to also prevent Tolko's logging operation from occurring. A judge ruled in mid-January that the band can't interfere with harvesting. Murray Wilson, forestry woodlands manager, says Tolko would be disappointed if a blockade occurs. "If necessary, we'll go back to the court for an enforcement order (of the court ruling)," he said. "We hope we don't have to do that." Wilson expresses concern that the dispute is escalating. "Both sides went through a legal process and the court heard both sides and the judge made a ruling. We're following that ruling," he said. Wilson insists the Forest Practices Code has been followed and the Browns Creek watershed will be protected. We had a hydrologist involved and all of our processes have been reviewed," he said. Beyond a blockade at the forestry site, closing the reserve portion of Westside Road — which the band claims ownership of — is another option. That could be one of the strategies discussed," said Alexis. The band recently announced it will turn back and possibly impound Tolko vehicles using Westside Road through the reserve because it's not satisfied with an archeological assessment done at Browns Creek. "I would also remind everyone that title over these forest lands is something that is before the courts, therefore for the provincial government to allow as much clear cut logging as possible around our reserve before title reverts to us is not only utterly cynical, it is in this instance thoroughly irresponsible," said Alexis. Criticism has also been directed towards Ottawa. "There has been a deafening silence from the federal government over this matter," said Stewart Phillip, Okanagan Nation Alliance grand chief, in a press release. "Thus once again it is up to the Okanagan Nation community members to defend their own interests as they are not afforded the same protection as those living in non-aboriginal communities." George Abbott, B.C.'s aboriginal relations minister, is urging for calm. "It's incumbent on all of the parties to follow the direction of the B.C. Supreme Court," he said. "That's where issues should be resolved and not through confrontation." The legal status of Westside Road is currently being investigated by Tolko and the provincial government. "The ministry is aware that the band has asserted the province may not have jurisdiction on the road through the reserve and the ministry is reviewing the situation," said Jeff Knight, a Ministry of Transportation spokesman. Tolko and its contractors have been using alternate routes to get into Browns Creek.

B.C. band fights logging on site of land claim



CBC News

The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs is backing efforts by the Okanagan Indian Band to stop logging in its land claims area while the band resolves land title issues.

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip said he is concerned Tolko Industries will attempt to move equipment and crews into the Brown's Creek watershed on Monday, and said the union will take all steps necessary to protect land rights in the area.

The Okanagan band insists Tolko Industries doesn't have a right to log while land claims remain unresolved, but a B.C. court ruled earlier in February that the Vernon-based logging company can begin cutting in the Browns Creek area, near Vernon.

That prompted elders and band members to pass a motion during an emergency meeting on Saturday night to establish checkpoints to monitor and regulate traffic through the community. The band is concerned that logging in the Browns Creek watershed will threaten their water supply and archeological sites.

Tolko maintains it has developed an appropriate logging plan for the area that includes protecting significant archeological sites.

'All options on the table'
Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band said on Friday that "all options were on the table" in order to protect his community's water.

"The provincial government has made it clear that the financial interests of Tolko are of greater concern to them than the health and safety of the people who derive their drinking and irrigation water from the Browns Creek watershed," he said. "When it comes to protecting the watersheds that supply Vernon with its water, government agencies would not hesitate to act, but suddenly when it involves our community, our concerns are discounted. This systemic racism will not stand," said Alexis.

"Title over these forest lands is something that is before the courts, therefore for the provincial government to allow as much clear-cut logging as possible around our reserve before title reverts to us is not only utterly cynical, it is in this instance thoroughly irresponsible," he said.

With files from The Canadian Press Read more: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2010/02/22/bc-okanagan-tolko-logging-land-claim.html#ixzz0gJf2zoz7>

OKIB Blockade Up Monday Morning

The Okanagan Indian Band is following up on a threat to make it difficult for Tolko to begin logging in the Browns Creek Watershed.

Chief, Fabian Alexis says at 7 this morning they set up a camp near Bouleau Lake. He says the drinking water for the Band's 18-hundred members is at risk.

The Ministry of Transportation says they are reviewing the status of Westside Road, but they couldn't tell us just how long that might take - however the action is in a remote area, not on the main road.

The BC Supreme Court recently gave the go-ahead for logging once an archeological study of the area had been done.

Tolko has confirmed their crew headed into the area Monday morning.

Betty Selin - Vernon

We are also looking for hand drummers to join us Friday February 26, 2010 for 7:00 am as we support our leaders and community members before they head up to Boleau Lake. This time and date could change as we are day to day and things or events could change at any time. But we are aiming for Friday February 26, 2010 at 7:00 am.

Please forward to interested contacts and come join us in "holdin the line," if you are unable to make it on Friday morning, please note that a few have been singing around the fire at the check point at Public Works in the evenings.



"Supporters are needed up in Vernon at the Brown's Creek logging camp. The RCMP will be going in to the camp to make arrests very soon, with Thursday (Feb 25) being the earliest day they can enter the camp. Fabian Alexis and Stewart Phillip have been singled out for arrests. It is time to show solidarity and protect the land."

Ethan Baptiste



February 23, 2010
OPEN LETTER
RE: BROWNS CREEK WATERSHED PROTECTION

The Okanagan Nation/Indian Band is involved with on-the-ground efforts to protect its watershed in the Brown's Creek Litigation area. If Tolko enters the watershed area to log, this will destroy our drinking water. The Okanagan Nation/Indian Band is taking all precautions necessary to deter the destruction of our watersheds.

Protective blockades are located at the Okanagan campsite located near Bouleau Lake.

Donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can do so at the following financial institution:

TD Canada Trust
Transit #: 98800
Account #: 08210301543

You can provide your support by contacting our Vernon MLA George Abbott (250) 833-7414 or email: George.abbott.mla@leg.bc.ca. Also our Member of Parliament Colin Mayes at (250) 260-5020 or email at mayesc@parl.gc.ca.

If you like to volunteer contact either (250) 542-3444 or (250) 542-7132. You can obtain further information at www.okib.ca and/or on Facebook group "Brown Creeks Protection For Our Watershed".

Regards,
Chief Fabian Alexis,
Okanagan Indian Band

"This is an issue that affects all of US. OKIB members, Nation members, people that live in the surrounding cities. This is not an isolated issue that affects westside road or natives. this is something that we all have to work towards to protect. Tommorrow think about how many times you turn on the tap, flush the toilet...et, drink juice, water, coffee, think about what your life would be like if you didn't have unlimited access to WATER!!!! To those that are unsure of how they can help or make a difference, just ask. There are many ways to help. Stop and visit!"
Coola Louis

"We have the right to what is ours, you came into our lives and pushed us into a corner....now is our time to shine. our time to lead and we have a right and resopibility to our future generations to come"
Toni Harris

"GREAT CAUSE..I AM FOR DEVELOPMENT BUT NOT IRRESPONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT"
Jim Henry

"You have my support. I have posted an article on my blog and sent a letter to the editor of the Kamloops Newspaper. Here is the address of the blog. Feel free to link up if this is usefull.http://standupforcanda.wordpress.com"
Laara Williamsen

The Province's exclusive claim to title and jurisdiction to the Brown's Creek watershed has been the subject of a major legal challenge by Dan Wilson on behalf of the Okanagan Indian Band (Wilson case) this significant legal challenge has been before the courts for the last 10 years. In spite of strong objections by the Okanagan Indian Band Tolko was granted TFL 49. Tolko made a unilateral declaration of their intent to commence clear-cut logging operations within the litigation area on October 21, 2009. In response, member communities of the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) joined Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) and Chief Tim Manuel of the Upper Nicola Band in their fight to protect the Brown's Creek watershed. Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, Chair of the Okanagan Nation Alliance and approximately 25 community members have assisted in the establishment of a check point at Bouleau Lake to monitor and manage the flow of traffic within the Brown's Creek watershed 2009. Tolko filed an action seeking damages against the OKIB and certain named individuals on October 28, 2009, and filed an injunction application to prevent interference with their logging and road building activities. The ONA and OKIB responded by filing an action in trespass against Tolko and seeking an injunction to prevent Tolko from logging the Watersheds. The injunction applications were heard over three days on November 18-20, 2009. On January 11, 2010, the judge gave her decision. She granted Tolko's injunction application. While she agreed with Tolko that it should be permitted to log, she also found that if it were to log immediately as it requested, there would be irreparable harm to archaeological evidence. She therefore gave the parties two weeks to come up with a plan for the location and preservation of archaeology in the eight cut blocks. No agreement was reached between Tolko and the Okanagan so the parties appeared back before the judge on January 29, 2010 to present their respective proposals for the archaeology work. The judge concluded that Tolko's plan was sufficient. Tolko implemented their archaeological work on February 9th 2010 under the strong objections of the Okanagan Nation. The Browns Creek watershed provides much of the drinking and irrigation water for the Okanagan Indian Band and neighbouring communities. This is the same watershed that Tolko is intent on logging and the province of BC has granted permission for them to clear-cut. Once again the Okanagan face a situation where our aboriginal Title and Rights are being ignored and the health and safety of the community is being sacrificed so others can profit from the exploitation of our traditional territory. The area where proposed harvesting will occur is in the headwaters of the Nashwito and Bouleau Creeks. Both important contributes to not only the Okanagan Band but to neighbouring communities. Both creeks provide inflow into Okanagan Lake. Bouleau Ck is a tributary to Whiteman Creek. Whiteman and Bouleau Creeks have historically been an active fishery for Okanagan People with the increased harvesting in the headwaters the fish populations have been declining due to loss of habitat from increase spring runoff, When the trees are removed there is nothing to hold the water back. To Tolko Industries this is just business they do not live here. This is our children's future. As was stated by Okanagan Elder Ralph Marchand "WATER IS LIFE, WITHOUT WATER THERE IS NO LIFE."

Okanagan Indian Band members have taken action against logging on the Westside of Okanagan Lake.
Vernon Morning Star

As of 7 a.m. Monday, a blockade was established near Bouleau Lake so Tolko Industries could not harvest trees in the Browns Creek area.

"Title to the area is a matter that is presently before the courts and that the Crown has been unable to produce any documentation showing acquisition of title from the Okanagan Nation," said Fabian Alexis, band chief, in a release.

Band members established camps in October to gather archeological evidence but to also prevent Tolko's logging operation from occurring. A judge ruled in mid-January that the band can't interfere with harvesting.

On Saturday, band members gathered at the Head of the Lake Hall to discuss the situation and a decision was made to proceed with a blockade because of the potential impact logging could have on their watershed.

A decision was also made to establish check-points as a way of keeping Tolko vehicles off Westside Road.

Tolko officials state that logging is required to deal with a pine beetle infestation, and a blockade of Browns Creek goes against recent court rulings.

"If necessary, we'll go back to the court for an enforcement order," said Murray Wilson, forestry woodlands manager.

Support for the band has come from the Assembly of First Nations.

"I would like to offer my support to Chief Fabian Alexis and the members of the Okanagan Indian Band in their efforts to protect their community's water supply," said national chief Shawn Atleo.

"The health and safety of the citizens of the Okanagan Indian Band must take priority, as should the Crown's duty to consult with First Nations prior to development on traditional territories."

Atleo added that while First Nations support a balanced approach to economic development, they must be involved.

"Development must be responsible and sustainable based on acceptable standards for consultation and accommodation so no one (First Nations or industry) gets caught in the middle."

See more on this story in Wednesday's Morning Star.

Blockade to remain, Tolko to go to court
by Elisha Dacey

Chief Fabian Alexis of the Okanagan Indian Band says the current blockade near the Brown's Creek Watershed will remain while both sides of the issue talk to their lawyers.

The OIB set up a blockade at 7 a.m. Monday morning to prevent Tolko Industries from logging in the area, which they say they have a legal right to do.

The two sides have been wrangling over the watershed for years, a watershed that Alexis says is the primary water system for most of the band's 1,800 residents.

"What concerns us is...unlike municipal water sources, our water source does not enjoy legislative protection, the standards for logging near a municipal water source do not apply," says Alexis.

Alexis says Tolko representatives approached the blockade Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. to inform band members that logging equipment and personnel were 15 k.m. away and to ask if they would be let through.

Alexis says Tolko was told they would not be let through and refused to accept several copies of an injunction Tolko tried to present.

"The meeting was very cordial, we shook hands before and after we talked," says Alexis.

Tolko officials left, saying they were going to consult with their lawyers. Alexis says OIB will be doing the same.

Mark Tamas, Okanagan Regional Woodlands Manager for Tolko, agreed the meeting was cordial and that Tolko will be heading back to court to ask for an enforcement order on the logging permits they were issued two and a half years ago by the province.

Tamas says Tolko believes they have satisfied all the requirements the Supreme Court asked of them before they were allowed to move forward with logging, including logging the area up to government standards to protect the watershed.

Tamas adds the lumber to be harvested, most of which is Mountain Pine Beetle-killed or infested, is continuing to degrade. "Time is of the essence," he says, adding they plan to reforest the area.

OIN has used blockades before, cutting off access to the area in October of 2009.

In the meantime, Alexis says the blockade will remain in place and they are reaching out to other First Nations communities in the area to help block access to the area through other roads and paths.

Alexis says he's hoping members of the general public will also help by calling their MLAs and MPs to express their support.



We here in Ontario have called to the Midewiwin Lodge to send prayers your way, the pipes will be lifted here for all of you.

As many of the Anishinabe People are far away, this doesn't not mean we cannot support you.

In terms of our struggle with Site 41, that would have contaminated our water system of the people of Beausoleil First Nation, we used a number of tactics to progress the cause, including peaceful, protective blockading.

I guess, my question to you is, are there any online petitions going for which I can pass the link through my network?

I would like to begin a letter campaign here in Ontario, but to whom specifically besides your Premier would you like us to send letters to?

The Council of Canadians has issued an action alert this morning calling for support of your cause. They were also very influential in the Site 41 movement as well and they have an amazing network of 65 000 members.

I will be using my position as Commissioner for the Anishinabe Women's Water Commission to request the Chiefs of Ontario issue a press statement in support.

My group, Anishinabe Kweag: Protecting Our Future Generations will also be issuing a statement of support.

If there is any other way that I can help, please let me know!

In Solidarity,
Vicki M. R. Monague
 Anishinabe, Wolf Clan
 Beausoleil First Nation
 Christian Island, ON

Okanagan Band sets up blockade to prevent Tolko's Logging
foresttalk.com-Feb 22, 2010



The Okanagan Indian Band set up a blockade this morning near the Brown's Creek Watershed to prevent Tolko Industries from moving logging equipment into the area.

Chief Fabian Alexis said the blockade will remain while both sides talk to their lawyers.

The blockade went up at 7am this morning. Tolko sent representatives to the blockade to see if their equipment would be allowed through. The meeting was described as "cordial", but Tolko was not allowed through and the Okanagan Indian Band refused to accept a copy of the injunction that Tolko attempted to present.

Tolko intends to head back to court to ask for an enforcement order on the logging permits they were issued two and a half years ago by the province.

Alexis said the band is most concerned about the state of the watershed, since it is the primary water source for most of the band's 1800 residents.



ACTION ALERT:FROM COUNCIL OF CANADIANS
Help the Okanagan Indian Band defend the Browns
Creek watershed
Tuesday, February 23rd, 2010

The Okanagan Indian Band has set up a road blockade near Bouleau Lake to stop Tolko Industries from logging in the Browns Creek watershed area near Vernon, British Columbia.

The Okanagan Indian Band is concerned that the logging will threaten their water supply and archeological sites. They insist that the logging should not take place while land claims remain unresolved.

Chief Fabian Alexis says, "The federal government has done nothing to protect the 1,800 people who live on the Okanagan Indian Band reserve. The provincial government has made it clear that the financial interests of Tolko are of greater concern to them than the health and safety of the people who derive their drinking and irrigation water from the Browns Creek watershed. When it comes to protecting watersheds that supply Vernon with its water, government agencies would not hesitate to act, but suddenly when it involves our community, our concerns are discounted. This systemic racism will not stand."

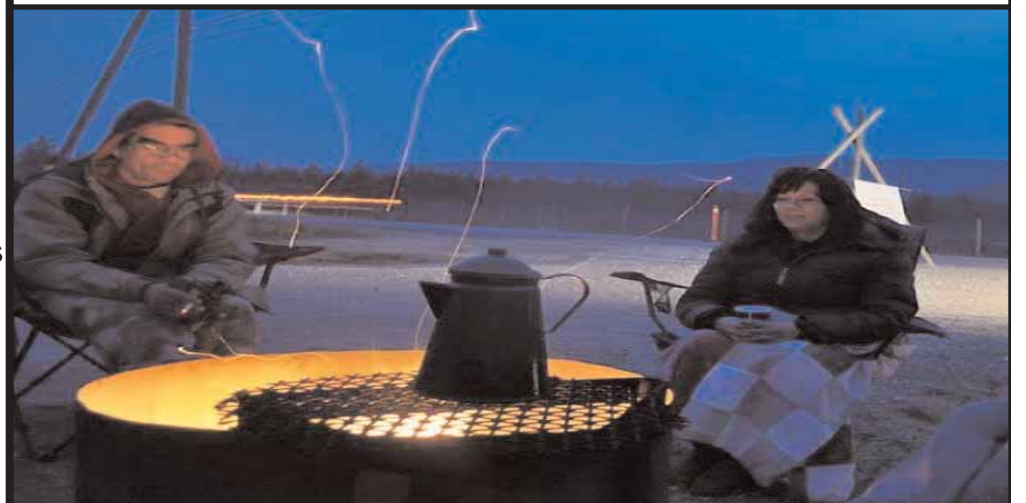
National Chief Shawn Atleo of the Assembly of First Nations says, "I would like to offer my support to Chief Fabian Alexis and the members of the Okanagan Indian Band in their efforts to protect their community's water supply."

Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs Grand Chief Stewart Phillip says, "The UBCIC fully supports the Okanagan Indian Band's decision to protect their community's water supply... I received a letter from Minister Pat Bell that makes it clear that the safety of the drinking water that supplies most of the 1800 people who live on the Okanagan Indian Band reserve is not as important to him as facilitating short term profits for Tolko."

The BC Supreme Court gave permission for the logging to proceed provided the archeological sites were protected in a February 1 ruling. Tolko is now going to court to seek an enforcement order on the logging permits that have been issued to them.

Chief Alexis is asking that members of the general public help by calling their MLAs and MPs to express their support. Supporters have also been invited to attend the blockade.

To find the contact information for your federal representative (and for those in BC your provincial representative), go to the Council of Canadians website at http://www.canadians.org/action/contact_reps.html



Land disputes continue despite Olympics, Okanagan indigenous community blocks access to logging company
by Andrew Crosby

Land disputes between indigenous communities, resource-based companies, and the Canadian state are numerous and on-going. There is no Olympic time-out in this historical struggle.

On Saturday, February 20, the Okanagan Indian Band held an emergency meeting and passed a motion to establish checkpoints throughout the community as a reaction to the Tolko Industries logging company's plans to cut trees in the Browns Creek Watershed, near Vernon.

While a B.C. court ruled that Tolko could begin logging in the area, the Band insists that the company lacks jurisdiction to harvest trees where land claims remain unresolved.

The court ruling was contingent on an archaeological consultation, one that Grand Chief Stewart Phillip and Chief Fabian Alexis contend was less than genuine and ultimately flawed.

"Title to the area is a matter that is presently before the courts and that the Crown has been unable to produce any documentation showing acquisition of title from the Okanagan Nation," said Alexis.

Most of present-day British Columbia has never been formally ceded by indigenous communities and remains as a major issue of contention and potential conflict.

"No Olympics on Stolen Native Land" has been the slogan that local communities have rallied around in their opposition to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. With thousands of journalists in B.C. for the Olympics, an episode like this, which may not traditionally garner much media attention, could potentially reach an international audience. A German film crew has already been on the scene.

The Okanagan Band argues that logging in the watershed will affect both native and non-native communities alike, and other residents of the area are showing their support in the decision to block Tolko's access to the land.

"The provincial government has made it clear that the financial interests of Tolko are of greater concern to them than the health and safety of the people who derive their drinking and irrigation water from the Browns Creek Watershed," stated Chief Alexis in a press release.

Tolko and government officials have not yet publicly commented.

Tolko may be headed back to court
By Richard Rolke - Vernon Morning Star

A date with a judge could be the next development in the Browns Creek dispute.

Tolko Industries will seek a court order in the hopes of forcing the Okanagan Indian Band to disband a blockade at the company's logging site on the west side of Okanagan Lake.

"A party has chosen to defy a court order," said Mark Tamas, woodlands manager, adding that a court appearance could occur as early as Thursday.

The band established camps at Browns Creek in October to gather archeological evidence and prevent Tolko from logging. A judge ruled in mid-January that the band can't interfere with harvesting.

But on Monday, a blockade was re-established near Bouleau Lake after band members approved such action at a community meeting Saturday.

Chief Fabian Alexis says his members are concerned about the potential impact logging will have on them.

"The community supports the protection of the watershed."

Alexis added that when reserves were created, water was supposed to be preserved but the federal and provincial governments have ignored their responsibilities.

"Even as these creeks ran dry, the province continued to authorize the industrial clear cutting of the watersheds that provide our drinking water."

Alexis would not speculate on whether the band would ignore a court order to remove the blockade.

An enforcement order would lead to the RCMP becoming involved in the situation.

"If it gets to that stage, we'll get more involved in a mediatory process, trying to resolve this without having to resort to any kind of physical confrontation," said Sgt. Dave Evans.

"If enforcement needs to be done, then we will move to that stage. Band members could be arrested to ensure Tolko can gain access, but we'll have to see exact details of the enforcement order if and when the courts grant that to Tolko."

On Monday, Tolko officials visited Browns Creek and informed Alexis that they were going to proceed with logging. But the band verbally prevented that from occurring.

"We weren't spitting at each other. It was civil," said Alexis of the encounter.

Tamas confirms logging equipment was not allowed into the area.

"The action clearly violates the Supreme Court of B.C. ruling. We've complied with all of the aspects of the ruling," he said.

"We really want to move forward with the permits issued by the province."

The band has also established checkpoints on Westside Road. Vehicles belonging to Tolko and its contractors are being turned back, and the band has even suggested they will be impounded if necessary.

"It's a public road that we should have access to," said Tamas, adding that alternate routes are longer and increase costs.

But Alexis says the band, not the province, owns Westside Road and logging trucks put residents at risk.

"We're getting good feedback from people going through the checkpoints," he said.



Carrier Sekani Tribal Council
 # 200 – 1460 – 6th Avenue, Prince George, B.C. V2L 3N2

Carrier Sekani Tribal Council Supports Okanagan Indian Band

For Immediate Release - February, 24, 2010. Dakeih Territory (Prince George, British Columbia, Canada)

The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council fully supports the Okanagan Indian Band in their efforts to protect their unceded territory against the actions of Tolko Industries Ltd. (Tolko).

The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, representing 8 First Nations in central British Columbia, is cautioning Tolko Industries and also encouraging them to listen to the concerns of the OKIB and to immediately cease all proposed plans for logging. Tolko's actions are bringing attention to First Nations around the country and to Indigenous Peoples around the world about the actions of Canadian forest companies. This may lead to other First Nations opposing their operations in other areas in BC.

Vice Tribal Chief Terry Teegee states, "our Chiefs have similar stories of companies in our territory that do not heed our concerns, in the past, court action or direct action have been the only effective means of getting the attention of the public and the provincial government to stop aggressive companies such as Tolko." Teegee concluded "Tolko and their shareholders should consider themselves extremely fortunate to operate in a First Nations territory where the land question remains unresolved. If any First Nation has concerns about their drinking water then the priority to ensure the communities health and safety are protected should become paramount."

Tribal Chief David Luggi states, "If we create an Olympic event for companies that ruin their public relations then Tolko should be awarded the gold medal for in the way they have mishandled this matter. First Nations title and rights must have priority over a forestry permit issued by the government of British Columbia."

The Carrier Sekani Tribal Council will continue to monitor this escalating situation and will work with the OKIB to ensure the local, national, and international media are aware of the actions of Tolko and the inaction of the government of British Columbia.

-30-

Contact: Terry Teegee
 Tel: 250-562-6279
 Cell: 250- 640-3256
 Email: tteegee@cstc.bc.ca



All pictures in this newspaper are courtesy of Ruby Alexis, Colin Marchand, Justin Joe, Kathy Micheals, and Dean Louis.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

TO: SOCIAL ASSISTANCE CLIENTS

THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE IN THE FORMAT OF THE MONTHLY DECLARATION RENEWAL FORM. FORMS ARE NOW COLOR CODED INDICATING THE CUT OFF DATE FOR SUBMISSION AND THE CHEQUE ISSUE DATE. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY RENEWAL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH WITHOUT EXCEPTION. Employable Clients are to hand in job search forms each month by the 15th. Unless clients are on an equal payment plan for utilities Each month you must submit any earnings and bills such as; Hydro, Telephone, Propane, Oil, Natural Gas, etc. If Social Assistance Applications are not up to date or missing required documents Cheques will not be processed. Pre-Application Packages are available at the front desk. This package must be completed prior to booking your appointment, in order to avoid delays in processing. Please contact the Social Development Division @ 250-542-5094 to schedule your appointment. APPOINTMENT TO BE SCHEDULED. Daily 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Director of Health & Social Development



We Are Warriors!

Men's Self-Development Seminar

March 15 & 16 ~ Lakeside Hotel
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Penticton, B.C.

March 17 & 18 ~ Prestige Inn
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Vernon, B.C.

Hosted by the
Okanagan Nation Transition Emergency House

Seminar will feature a highly recognized and gifted individual:

Keith Edgar

Keith is a graduate of Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. Having graduated as an electrical Engineer Technologist, He has been involved in youth leadership development for over 10 years specializing in personal growth and development of youth, training in life skills, such as communications, creative problem-solving, handling conflict, collaboration skills, and relationships.

*Bea Shawanda will be co-facilitating with Edgar.

This workshop is free and refreshments and lunch will be provided to all participants!



For more information or to register for the seminar please contact Martie Louis at 250-309-8094 or by email at martie.louis@hotmail.com

Six Mile Sweeties Indian Taco's and Loonie Auction



Saturday March 20, 2010, Head of the Lake Hall, Noon: Indian Taco's Sales Start.
12:30: Loonie Auction Starts 50/50's
The 6 Mile Sweeties are a group of local girls from the Okanagan Indian Band & Community who are active in the Greater Vernon Ringette Association. We are your family, friend, niece, cousin and neighbor who love the sport of Ringette and would like to raise funds to offset our 2010-2011 Ringette Registration Fees. All funds raised will be utilized for our registration fees and that amount is estimated at \$3,595.00 for 13 girls. For more information please call Glenda Louis 250.550.4336, Randi Robins 250.550.3217.

Arthritis Self-Management Program

Six Thursday Afternoons: February 18, 25; March 4, 11, 18, & 25
1:30p.m. to 3:30p.m, at The OKIB Health Centre (70 Head of the Lake Rd, Vernon, BC) Cost: \$25 (includes The Arthritis Helpbook)
A family member or friend can attend for \$10. Space is Limited. To register for this event please phone Wilma at 250.542.5094 or the Arthritis Society's toll free number 1-866-414-7766



FOR SALE-2006 Chrysler 300-4Door. Asking price, firm-\$12,900.

Metallic Grey, Mileage 105,270. All season radials, power steering, power windows, power doors, anti-lock brakes, cruise control, automatic transmission with interchangable auxiliary standard transmission. Rear wheel drive, factory rated for 34 miles per gallon. (May need a new windshield, this will be a deduction from the asking price). Phone 250-503-0672/cell: 250-603-8672. Lloyd Wilson, must sell due to health reasons.

I am not going to sit by idly by as the events that affect me unfold to determine the course of my life. I'm going to take a stand. I'm going to defend it.





THE NK'MAPŁQS TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE:

6th ANNUAL ALL-NATIVE NK'MAPŁQS HOCKEY CHALLENGE CUP

WHEN: April 2nd – 5th, 2010

WHERE: Vernon, B.C.

Westbild Centre, Civic and Priest Valley Arenas

This year's tournament will feature four divisions:

- Competitive
 - Recreational
 - Women's Division
- 40+ Recreational Old-timers

NOTE: ALL DIVISIONS ARE NON-CONTACT HOCKEY

Entry Fee:

16+ Competitive - \$875.00 (20 players passes)
All other divisions - \$775.00 (20 players passes)

PRIZE MONEY:	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Rec Competitive (10 Teams)	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00
40+ Recreational Old-timers	Jackets	T-Shirts	

(Prize money will be pro-rated according to the number of teams entered into the tournament and based on 10 teams.)

Non-refundable Entry Fee and Roster and Waiver Forms are required by **March 27th, 2010** payable to:

Okanagan Dreammakers Society
 11166 Westside Road, Vernon, BC V1H 2H1
(Certified Cheque or Money Order)

Individual and Team trophies will be presented at the conclusion of the three-day tournament.

Note:

- **Waivers** (required for all players, under 18 parent signature is required)
- **Proof of Native Ancestry** (required for all players fill in form and provide a photocopy of Status/Métis Card)
- **All documentation required by the deadline date – NO exceptions**

Dance Saturday Nite

Arts & Craft Exhibitors
Complete Exhibitor Registration Form (March 23/10) and forward with payment to address listed above. Rate: \$20/day or \$35/weekend
(Includes 1 table, 2 chairs and 1 complimentary weekend pass).

For more information, please contact:

Keith Louis (250)549-3452
 Richard Louis (250) 275-3181 or by
 Email: richard_louis766@hotmail.com
 Jenny Louis @ 250-309-7436

All tournament rules and information available at www.freewebs.com/nkmaplqs2007



OKIB Birthdays-March

Aaron Alexis	Wayne Jack	Diane Marchand	Irene Poslowsky
Sharon Antoine	Dale Jim	Joey Marchand	Johnnie Ram
Karen Babiuk	Jerome Joe	Kalem Marchand	Fred Roberds
Alfred Bonneau	Elizabeth Kennedy	Lee Marchand	Danielle Saddleman
Micheal Bonneau	Billie Kruger	Marguerite Marchand	Paul Schwab
Thomas Bonneau	Amanda Lawrence	Nikki Marchand	Beverly Simpson
Cory Bonneau	Ashley Lawrence	Bob Marchand	John Smith
Boyd Bonneau	Clayton Lawrence	Vernetta McMillan	Norman Smith
William Bonneau	Jacqueline Lawrence	Gary Meilleur	Curtis Sorochinski
Mary Brooks	Leslie Lawrence	Jeremy Mills	Jon Spotted Eagle
Rick Chiba	William Lawrence	Allan Mitchell	Sandie Trask
Heidi Clough	Bonita Lewis	Edith Mitchell	Vanessa Smith-Tso
Stephanie Cowan	Steven Logan	Eric Mitchell	Randy Weatherbee
Katherine Dash	Cody Louis	Sam Mitchell	Bruce Weaver
Wanda Duncan	Fred Louis	Rogelio Orozco	Melissa White
Kathleen Edwards	Glenda Louis	Barbara Palahicky	Braden Williams
Shiela Evans	Maritza Louis	Andy Parker	Russell Williams
Lorrie Rae Flynn	Mary Louis	Doris Parker	Isadore Williams
Lawrence Gallicano	Samantha Louis	Isaac Parker	Karen Williams
Valerie Genaille	Savannah Louis	Jean Parker	Richard Williams
Christine Gervais	Mervin Louis	Lily Parker	Roxane Williams
Lydia Gregoire	Dawn Macdougall	Ruby Parker	Allan Wilson
Madeline Gregoire	Trina Manzer	Jimmy Paul	Evie Wilson
Mary Gregoire	Alex Marchand	Shirley Paul	Nichole Wilson
Thaine Gregoire	Alice Marchand	Bertha Phelan	Lillian Zwarich
Shawn Hoffer	Brenda Marchand	Kathleen Phelan	

Happy Birthday to:
 Auntie Dukes, Uncle Terelle,
 Uncle Thomas, Cuzzies
 Pookster, Emz, B-Rae, Tara,
 Nichole, Jade and Bill. Also to
 the beautiful Mrs.V, Karen,
 Nikki, Twyla, Qui's other mama
 Sandie, and Joey Marchand!!
 Love Tetko & the Parker Boyz

Happy Birthday
 Braden Williams
 on March 8th

From all of his family, we're so
 proud of you for being such a
 great single-father to your
 beautiful kids