



**Dene National Office  
Assembly of First Nations (NWT)**

5125- 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 2338  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7

Toll Free: 1 866-511-4081  
Phone: (867) 873-4081  
Fax: (867) 920-2254  
Website: [www.denenation.com](http://www.denenation.com)



**43rd DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 8-12, 2013  
Inuvik, Denendeh**

**MOTION #13/14-007**

**SUBJECT: Oppose Action That May Impact the Slave River**

**MOVED BY: Melba Mitchell – Inuvik Native Band**

**SECONDED BY: Chief Roy Fabian – Katl'o Dehe First Nation**

**DECISION: Unanimous**

**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 43<sup>rd</sup> Dene National Assembly in Inuvik, Denendeh from July 8-12, 2013; and

**WHEREAS** since time immemorial the Slave River has provided a major transportation for indigenous peoples between the Lake Athabasca region and Great Slave lake region and northwards along the Mackenzie; and

**WHEREAS** in more recent history the Slave River provided the major trading route between Fort Chipewyan and Fort Fitzgerald for trappers; and

**WHEREAS** the federal, provincial and territorial government in signing the Mackenzie River Basin Agreement have undertaken to take measures to protect the entire basin; and

**WHEREAS** the 2012 *Budget Implementation Act* removed protections for navigation on the Slave River; and

**WHEREAS** changes to the *Navigable Water Protection Act* were made without advance consultations with those directly impacted including First Nations; and

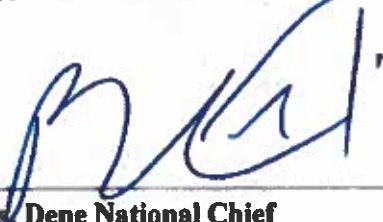
**WHEREAS** the Slave River remains critical to the economies of communities situated along its shores; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we oppose any actions considered or taken or laws enacted which may impact the Slave River and call upon the Federal Crown to undertake immediate discussions subject to Treaty 8 with the Dene in these matters; and

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we the Dene call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-529 to list the Slave River under the *Navigable Rivers Act*.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013 in Inuvik, Denendeh**



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**Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief**

**13/14-007**



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**43rd DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 8-12, 2013  
Inuvik, Denendeh**

**MOTION #13/14-010**

**SUBJECT: Peel River Watershed**

**MOVED BY: Melba Mitchell – Inuvik Native Band**

**SECONDED BY: Chief Roy Fabian – Katl'o Dehe First Nation**

**DECISION: Unanimous**

**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 43<sup>rd</sup> Dene National Assembly in Inuvik, Denendeh from July 8-12, 2013; and

**WHEREAS** the Dene Nation passed a motion "Motion#11/12-016 Protection of Peel River Watershed" at the Dene Leadership meeting in Fort Smith Denendeh in October of 2011; and

**WHEREAS** the Gwich'in are concern about the preservation and protection of the Peel River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS** there was a commission to establish a Land Use Plan for the Peel River Watershed; and

**WHEREAS** there is an Assembly of First Nation (AFN) assembly in Whitehorse July 16-18, 2013; and

**WHEREAS** this is a critical issue for the Gwich'in; and

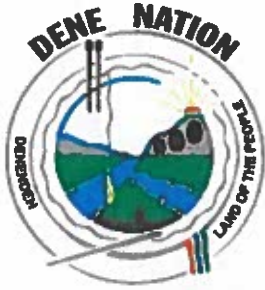
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Dene Nation with the Assembly of First Nation to lobby the Yukon Government to support the proposed Land Use Plan as recommended by the Peel River Land Use Planning Commission.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013 in Inuvik, Denendeh**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief**

**13/14-010**

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**43rd DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**July 8-12, 2013**  
**Inuvik, Denendeh**

**MOTION #13/14-013**

**SUBJECT:** Regional Land and Water Boards

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**MOVED BY:** Melba Mitchell – Inuvik Native Band

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Roy Fabian – Katl’o Dehe First Nation

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**DECISION:** Unanimous

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**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 43<sup>rd</sup> Dene National Assembly in Inuvik, Denendeh from July 8-12, 2013; and

**WHEREAS** the Government of Canada, through legislation has unilaterally taken a position to eliminate Regional Management Boards, which have been created and structured in accordance with the Gwichin, Sahtu, and Tlicho Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements; and

**WHEREAS** these Regional Boards are consistent with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*; and

**WHEREAS** the elimination of the Regional Boards were done without consultation; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dene Nation with the support and direction of the agreement holders inform the Federal and Territorial Government that this unilateral action is not acceptable; and

**BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Dene Nation work in conjunction with the Assembly of First Nations to monitor the existing management regimes which are part of s. 35 rights within the *Constitution Act, 1982* of Canada.

Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of July 2013 in Inuvik, Denendeh

  
Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief

13/14-013

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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-004

**SUBJECT:** DENE NATION OPPOSITION TO KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

**MOVED BY:** Chief Roy Fabian, Katlodeeche First Nation

**SECONDED BY:** Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus

**DECISION:** Unanimous

**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 - 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project will carry oil from Alberta's tar sands 1,000 miles south to the Gulf of Mexico, and will facilitate an expansion of tar sands developments; and

**WHEREAS**, tar sands developments are directly impacting the lands and rights of Dene First Nations, and threaten the water of downstream Dene communities and the environment of Denendeh; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change is a threat to Dene communities and the Dene way of life, and expansion of the tar sands will contribute to further climate change and global warming; and

**WHEREAS**, oil transported to the USA through the proposed Keystone XL pipeline is not needed in North America, and will go to market to be sold to the highest bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, Native Americans south of the border oppose the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, and the Dene Nation stands in solidarity with these peoples in this opposition; and

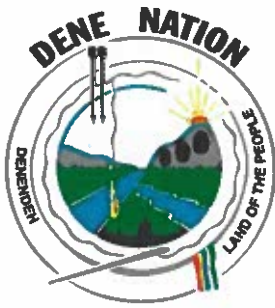
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation will continue to participate in organized opposition of the Keystone XL pipeline, in cooperation with other First Nations governments.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011 in Fort Providence, Denendeh**

Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief

11/12-004

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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-005

**SUBJECT:** COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WITH ENBRIDGE ON  
NORMAN WELLS PIPELINE

**MOVED BY:** Chief Jim Antoine, Liidlii Kue First Nation

**SECONDED BY:** Alfonz Nitsiza, Whati Community Government

**DECISION:** Unanimous

**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 – 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, Enbridge's Norman Wells pipeline has been in operation for 28 years without any comprehensive agreement between Enbridge and Denendeh impacted and affected by the pipeline; and

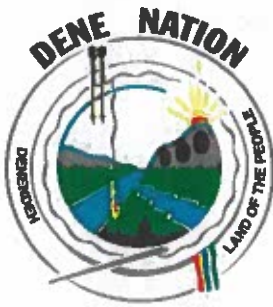
**WHEREAS**, a recent leak on the Norman Wells pipeline has affected the ability of Deh Cho First Nations to hunt on their land and has threatened the water of downstream communities; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, a comprehensive agreement between Enbridge and Dene impacted by the Norman Wells pipeline is needed to cover issues including environmental impacts and socio-economic impacts, and this agreement must include retroactive compensation for the past 28 years the pipeline has been in service.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011 in Fort Providence, Denendeh**

Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief

11/12-005



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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-006

**SUBJECT:** EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR LEGAL ACTION AGAINST  
ENBRIDGE FOR PIPELINE SPILL

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**MOVED BY:** Grand Chief Sam Gargan, Deh Cho First Nation

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**SECONDED BY:** Proxy Ruby Landry, Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation

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**DECISION:** Unanimous

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**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 – 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, a leak from Enbridge's Norman Wells pipeline has spilled an unconfirmed amount of oil an area near Willow River; and

**WHEREAS**, this spill occurred in a hunting area of Deh Cho First Nations, and has negatively impacted the ability of Deh Cho First Nations to travel and harvest in their territory; and

**WHEREAS**, Enbridge must be held accountable for the impact of the oil spill from its pipeline on Deh Cho First Nations communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Energy Board, the federal agency responsible for overseeing the cleanup and investigation of this spill has advised that they have no authority to take legal action against Enbridge; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation will explore options for taking legal action against Enbridge in regards to the oil spill from the Norman Wells pipeline.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation inquire into precisely what mandatory enforceable rules are in place in stature, legislation, permit or directive.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation file a petition of investigation for the oil spill near Willow River with the Government of Canada to investigate and bring possible charges and legal action.

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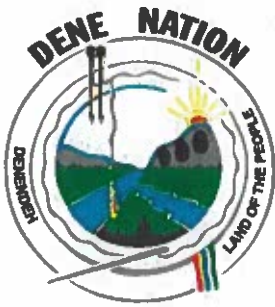


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**Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief**

**11/12-006**





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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-010

**SUBJECT:** ENBRIDGE PIPELINE OIL SPILLS

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge, Deh Gah Got'ie First Nation

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Richard Kochon, Behdzi Ahda First Nation

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**DECISION:** Unanimous

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**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 – 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent leak from Enbridge's Norman Wells pipeline spilled upwards of 1,500 barrels of oil near Willow River, polluting the surrounding area and impacting the ability of Deh Cho First Nations to hunt on their land; and

**WHEREAS**, an oil spill from Enbridge's Rainbow Pipeline polluted the environment with 28,000 barrels of oil near Peace River, Alberta, impacting Treaty 8 First Nations and potentially threatening downstream communities in Denendeh; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous other pipeline leaks in Canada and the USA have polluted the continent's waterways and ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Energy Board is responsible for overseeing the clean up of oil spills from pipelines in Denendeh, and investigating the cause of these incidents; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation calls on Enbridge, Paramount Resources and other pipeline companies to improve monitoring and inspection of their pipelines in order to prevent any further spills, and to include affected First Nations in clean up of any spills and in the development of new pipeline infrastructure; and

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation calls on the National Energy Board and the federal government to properly and effectively oversee pipeline operations, investigate pipeline spills, and fine polluting companies under the appropriate federal legislation when spills do occur.

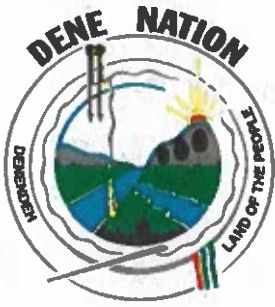
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**Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief**

**11/12-010**



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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-011

**SUBJECT:** SOLIDARITY WITH FIRST NATIONS THAT HAVE REFUSED  
CONSENT TO ENBRIDGE NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINES AND  
CRUDE OIL TANKERS IN THEIR TERRITORIES

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**MOVED BY:** Grand Chief Sam Gargan, Deh Cho First Nation

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Cheyenne Paulette, Smith Landing First Nation

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**DECISION:** Carried

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**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 – 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS** the Dene Nation has significant concerns about the dramatic expansion in the development of Alberta tar sands, due to the serious current and future impacts on our water and our communities from such development, and this expansion will be facilitated by the construction of new oil export pipelines; and

**WHEREAS** the Dene Nation has witnessed the deep opposition of First Nations in British Columbia to the approval and construction of the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines project, which would bring oil and petrochemical pipelines and supertankers through the territories and coastal waters of many First Nations, subjecting their communities to the grave risk of pipeline and tanker oil spills onto their lands and their coasts, and into their rivers; and

**WHEREAS** the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines would cross many rivers and streams in the headwaters of the Mackenzie watershed, which could impact on our communities, fish and wildlife downstream; and

**WHEREAS** the Dene Nation has recently experienced first-hand the damage that is caused by pipeline oil spills, due to Enbridge's recent oil spill in our territory; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dene Nation expresses its solidarity with First Nations that have refused to consent to the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines and tankers project in their territories.

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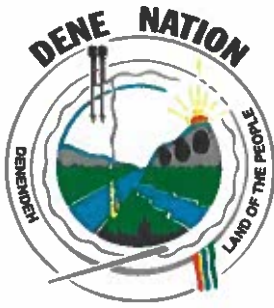
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**Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief**

**11/12-011**



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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-013

**SUBJECT:** TAILINGS LEAK AT GIANT MINE

**MOVED BY:** Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation

**SECONDED BY:** Chief Jim Antoine, Liidlíi Kue First Nation

**DECISION:** Unanimous

**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 – 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 water flowed through arsenic-contaminated tailings at the Giant Mine site, and then on to Great Slave Lake via Baker Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, Baker Creek is a spawning ground for several fish species; and

**WHEREAS**, Giant Mine has a long history of polluting Great Slave Lake with arsenic and other mining waste, particularly affecting the lives of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the release of deleterious substances into fish-bearing waters is a clear violation of the federal *Fisheries Act*; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation calls on Indian Affairs and Northern Development to properly contain or dispose of all tailings and contaminants at the Giant Mine Site, and to ensure that no further arsenic or other contaminants seep into surrounding water systems or Great Slave Lake; and

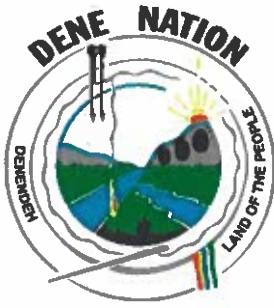
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation calls on the federal government to properly enforce the *Fisheries Act* and other environmental legislation.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011 in Fort Providence, Denendeh**

Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief

11/12-013

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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-014

**SUBJECT:** PROTOCOL TO WORK WITH INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN  
DEVELOPMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES AFFECTING DENENDEH

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Antoine Michel, Lutsel K'e Dene Band

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**SECONDED BY:** Delegate Alfred Baillargeon, Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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**DECISION:** Unanimous

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**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 – 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, environmental emergencies and catastrophes, such as oil spills, continue to impact Denendeh and its communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Indian Affairs and Northern Development is the federal department responsible for the Crown's obligations to Dene, and for maintaining good-faith working relationships with Dene; and

**WHEREAS**, Dene Nation is the national organization representing all Dene and is accountable to all Dene; and

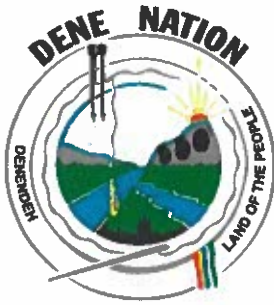
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Dene Nation calls on Indian Affairs and Northern Development to work with Dene Nation on establishing protocols to ensure that Dene Nation, the five regions and appropriate communities are informed immediately when environmental emergencies affecting Denendeh occur, and to ensure that Dene Nation is kept updated and is consulted throughout the clean up efforts of such emergencies.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011 in Fort Providence, Denendeh**

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Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief

11/12-014



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41<sup>st</sup> DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
July 11 – 15, 2011 Fort Providence, Denendeh

MOTION #11/12-021

**SUBJECT:** IDENTIFICATION AND RECLAMATION OF CONTAMINATED  
SITES IN DENENDEH

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**MOVED BY:** Chief Edward Sangris, Yellowknives Dene First Nation

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**SECONDED BY:** Chief Roy Fabian, Katlodeeche First Nation

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**DECISION:** Unanimous

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**WHEREAS**, the Dene Nation has convened the 41<sup>st</sup> Dene National Assembly in Fort Providence, Denendeh from July 11 – 15, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, there exist areas of Denendeh that are contaminated, due to past mining and other activities, that are not currently under reclamation; and

**WHEREAS**, Dene are the users and stewards of the land, and need to know about contaminated sites and be involved in their reclamation; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dene Nation will seek funding to identify contaminated sites in Denendeh, through testing and other means, and to ensure that these sites are properly reclaimed and that the land and water is safe for use.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011 in Fort Providence, Denendeh**

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Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief

11/12-021



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Toll Free: 1-866-511-4081



**48th DENE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
AUGUST 20 - 24, 2018  
WEST POINT FIRST NATION, DENENDEH**

**MOTION #18/19-005**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED TECK FRONTIER TAR SANDS MINE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA**

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**MOVED BY: Elder Lawrence Cheezie, Smith's Landing First Nation**

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**SECONDED BY: Chief Roy Fabian, K'at'l'odeeche First Nation**

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**DECISION: UNANIMOUSLY**

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**WHEREAS, the Dene Nation has convened the 48th Dene National Assembly, West Point First Nation, Denendeh from August 20 – 24, 2018; and**

**WHEREAS:**

- 1. The Chiefs derive authority from the Creator and the citizens of respective Nations, and in the exercise of inherent authority and Aboriginal and Treaty rights are beneficiaries of all aspects of international law, including but not limited to the Charter of the United Nations, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the doctrine of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC), and ILO Convention 169, and from time to time pass Resolutions and provide directives to their representative organizations; and**
- 2. Article 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states:**
  - i. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.**
  - ii. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.**

***"Upholding & Protecting the Rights and Interests of the Dene Nation"***



- iii. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.
3. The Teck Resources Frontier Project, the largest proposed truck-and-shovel tar sands mine located approximately 30km south of Wood Buffalo National Park in northern Alberta on the banks of the Athabasca River, is moving through regulatory approvals, with the Public Hearings happening in late September, 2018; and
4. There has been no consultation with Smith's Landing First Nation by the Government of Canada, Government of Alberta, or Teck Resources with regard to the project, the environmental assessment, or preliminary exploration leading up to the full project application or recognition that the project will impact Smith's Landing Territory; and
5. Smith's Landing First Nation is deeply concerned about the impacts of this project on not only the Outstanding Universal Values of Wood Buffalo National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the largest National Park in Canada, and Smith's Landing Territory, but also the downstream effects of the project on our lands and waters, and cumulative effects due to other industrial developments and climate change; and
6. The Government of Canada has agreed to support the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee in an attempt to protect and uphold the health of Wood Buffalo National Park; and
7. Smith's Landing First Nation seeks support from the Dene Nation in requesting the Government of Canada uphold the integrity of Wood Buffalo National Park and the ability of Smith's Landing First Nation to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Dene Nation support Smith's Landing First Nation in ensuring the ecological viability of its Territory, including upholding the OUV of Wood Buffalo National Park and pending Action Plan to address the UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission, by communicating our concerns to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada; and
2. The Dene Nation urge the Provincial and Federal governments to honour Canada's adoption of UNDRIP by not proceeding with the approval of the Teck Resources Frontier project without the free, prior and informed consent of all affected First Nations across Denendeh; and
3. The Dene National Chief provide notice to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) that since there has been no consultation with Smith's Landing First Nation that the Minister of CIRNAC take appropriate action to ensure deep, meaningful consultation and accommodation take place, and/or place a stop work order on the proposed project; and

4. The Dene National Chief request that the Crown recognize the impacts of this project on Smith's Landing First Nation's Territory, and all waters in the Mackenzie Basin Watershed, spanning Treaties 8 and 11.

**Certified copy of a resolution adopted on the 23rd day of August 2018 in West Point First Nation, Denendeh.**



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**Norman Yakeleya, Dene National Chief**

**MOTION 18/19-005**