



THE LAND BETWEEN THE TWO LAKES

Tsakisqnuq First Nation (TAFN) Appeals Approval of Tretheway Marina Modifications

Tsakisqnuq, November 4, 2024 – TAFN has filed an appeal with the British Columbia Environmental Appeal Board challenging the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship’s (the “**Ministry**”) approval of modifications to the Tretheway marina and surrounding area (the “**Project**”), a dredging project extending well beyond the natural footprint and bed of Windermere Lake.

TAFN’s appeal is based, among other things, on the Ministry’s failure to adequately consult and provide accommodation of TAFN’s rights, which will be impacted by the Project’s contribution to the cumulative effects of development and recreational use of Windermere Lake, and the Project’s impact on wildlife using the area to spawn.

TAFN, one of four Canadian Indian bands and two American tribes that form the Ktunaxa Nation, have continually inhabited and been stewards of Tsamak?is Ktunaxa, including Windermere Lake, since time immemorial. TAFN’s present-day reserve extends into the south and eastern shore of Windermere Lake for approximately 14 kilometers. The name Tsakisqnuq refers to the land of the two lakes – Windermere and Columbia.

Windermere Lake is a widening of the Columbia River, with an average depth of only 3.4 meters (11 feet). In recent years, Windermere Lake has seen heavy boating use for recreational purposes, including large wake boats which create turbulence that can reach 8 meters into the water column, significantly impacting the shallow water system.

Windermere Lake is interconnected with Columbia Lake, the headwaters of the Columbia River watershed. This past summer the Columbia Lake experienced a cross-species mass die off impacting hundreds of fish.

TAFN takes its stewardship role within Tsamak?is Ktunaxa seriously. Tsakxam?is qapi qapsins is a concept of the Ktunaxa language meaning “all living things”. Recreational use needs to be balanced against the actual capacity of the water systems and all living things that rely on the ecosystem. Destroying our lakes will destroy tourism, harming the livelihood of those that call the Columbia Valley home.

In light of the present state of the Windermere and Columbia Lakes, TAFN has proposed the co-development of a Windermere Lake Stewardship Plan with the Province of British Columbia to understand and manage the cumulative impacts on Windermere Lake.

Until a Stewardship Plan is in place to limit the damage caused by the overuse of Windermere Lake, TAFN will continue to take action to oppose developments in and adjacent to Windermere Lake.



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