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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

BCAFN REGIONAL CHIEF APPLAUDS REJECTION OF KGHM AJAX MINE

(Secwepemc Territory/Kamloops, BC – December 15, 2017) On December 14, the BC NDP government refused to grant an environmental assessment certificate to the proposed KGHM Ajax open-pit copper and gold mine. The project, which would have been located approximately 10 kilometres southwest of Kamloops and on the traditional territories of the Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN) (Tk'emlups te Secwepemc and Skeetchestn Indian Band), would have devastated the sacred lands known by SSN as Pípsell. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman, and Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Michelle Mungall issued a statement today stating that, "the adverse effects [of the Ajax mine] would not likely be mitigated to an acceptable level and would therefore present an unacceptable risk."

BCAFN Regional Chief Terry Teegee stated, "We are pleased with the government's decision not to proceed with the controversial project. I want to acknowledge the work of Stk'emlupsemc te Secwépemc Nation (SSN) who undertook an indigenous led comprehensive environmental assessment which was consistent with SSN laws, traditions and customs. SSN concluded that the project did not have their free, prior and informed consent, and I am pleased that the BC government has come to their decision with this in mind."

For further information, contact:

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