

**MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**June 27, 2016**

**Xat'sull First Nation and Williams Lake Indian Band Issue Statement Regarding Resumption of Full Operations at Mount Polley Mine**

**Williams Lake** - The Xat'sull First Nation (XFN) and Williams Lake Indian Band (WLIB) take note of the recent decision of the Ministry of Energy and Mines to approve the application of Mount Polley Mining Corporation to return to full operations at the Mount Polley Mine.

Since the breach on August 4, 2014, XFN and WLIB have worked jointly with the Ministries and Mount Polley Mining Corporation (MPMC) to review upcoming permits and plans. Although WLIB and XFN have expressed concerns, and remain concerned, that this approval has been given prior to the finalization of a Long-Term Water Management Plan and updated Closure and Reclamation Plan, WLIB and XFN recognize that the mine site is collecting water that, if unmanaged, is likely to cause further environmental harm.

“The intention of our communities,” states WLIB Chief Ann Louie “is to continue to work with both government and MPMC to hold them responsible for ensuring that the areas and species impacted by the 2014 dam breach are fully rehabilitated and that water is managed in the best possible way during the remaining term of mine operation and afterward during closure and reclamation.”

“Our Members have expressed their serious concern about the situation at Mount Polley Mine,” adds XFN Chief Donna Dixon, “and we will remain vigilant to ensure that the best possible practices are employed in operations at Mount Polley Mine and that the disaster is remediated to the maximum extent possible. We also take note of the recent report of the Auditor General with respect to Mount Polley Mine, and will continue to engage with the Province to ensure that the necessary changes are made to the legislative and regulatory frameworks to prevent a disaster of this kind from ever happening again.”

For more information on this media release, please contact:

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