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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

### **PROVINCE EMBARKS ON NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH FIRST NATIONS**

KAMLOOPS – The Province and the Tk'emlups Indian Band and Skeetchestn Band, the Kamloops Division of the Secwepmec Nation (KDSN), are beginning a new relationship with the signing of a Mining and Minerals Accord, Minister of State for Mining Kevin Krueger announced today.

“Building relationships with First Nations is a tremendously important part of the long-term future of our province,” said Krueger. “This first step in a new relationship with the Tk'emlups Indian Band and Skeetchestn Band will help to provide certainty and encourage responsible mineral resource development in the bands' traditional territory.”

The accord will bring the parties together to develop a successful long-term working relationship and will provide a framework for mineral exploration and development in the Kamloops area. It establishes a collaborative working relationship to ensure that mining development occurs in an environmentally and culturally sustainable manner that addresses KDSN's interests. It also allows the ministry to help KDSN participate in and benefit from mining activities within their traditional territory.

“Tk'emlups Indian Band always prides its self on creating partnerships that are meaningful towards benefiting our people's way of life. We have inhabited this land since time immemorial and will continue to occupy this land of ours with environment stewardship first and foremost,” said Chief Shane Gottfriedson of the Tk'emlups Indian Band. “Tk'emlups Indian Band believes that through this agreement we will benefit economically and socially for our people. The regional economy will also benefit through this agreement for many years to come through jobs and resource sharing.”

The accord establishes a means for communication, information sharing and consultation that will:

- Establish a clear, certain, and timely process for communication, information sharing, meaningful consultation and any agreed-upon accommodation measures;
- Define commitments, roles and approaches for consultation, accommodation and information sharing with regard to operational activities;
- Allow for discussion of other issues of importance; and
- Implement the principles of the New Relationship and a commitment to share any potential benefits that may arise.

“This agreement should open a dialogue leading to sharing of mining revenues between the provincial government and the Kamloops Division, as per the Province's New Relationship policy,” said Chief Ron Ignace of the Skeetchestn Indian Band. “Mining projects can have serious long-term impacts on our traditional resources, so we want to ensure our people get lasting economic benefits from these projects.”

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is committed to developing a thriving, competitive, safe and environmentally responsible mineral resource sector for the benefit of all British Columbians.

British Columbia is building a new relationship with First Nations founded on mutual respect, recognition and reconciliation, which will allow Aboriginal people to participate in the province's economic and social progress.

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