









# **A First Nations Perspective on Mining**

*Presented by*  
Rhoda Quock  
and  
Eileen Doody

November 30, 2006

13<sup>th</sup> Annual MEND ML/ARD Workshop

# Klappan Region Basemap

-  Protected Areas
-  Lakes
-  Glaciers
-  Streams and Rivers
-  Major Roads
-  Secondary Roads / Rail Grade
-  Rail
-  Developed Prospects
















0 5 10 20 30  
Kilometers

Data Sources: BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Geogatis, BC Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, Geobase  
Map produced January 2006





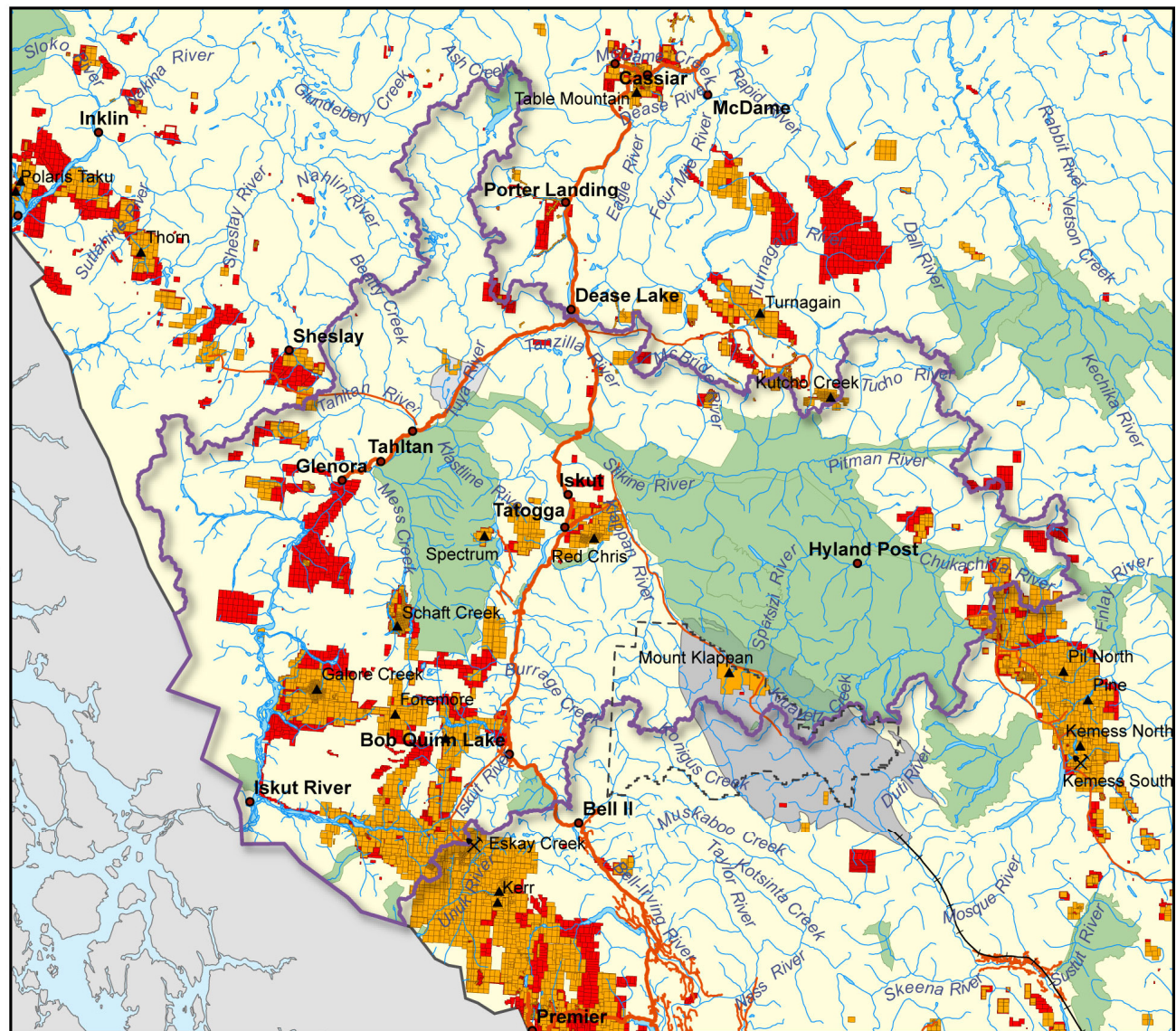
# Stikine Region Mineral and Petroleum Tenures

-  Stikine Watershed
-  Major Road
-  Secondary Road
-  Rail
-  River
-  Lake
-  Protected Area
-  Mineral Tenures pre Jan 2005
-  Post-Mineral Tenure Online staking system
-  Coal Field
-  Petroleum Tenure
-  Developed Mine
-  Development Project



0 10 20 40 60 80  
Kilometers

Data Sources: BC Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, BC Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Geogatis, BC Land and Resources Data Warehouse  
Map produced January 2006

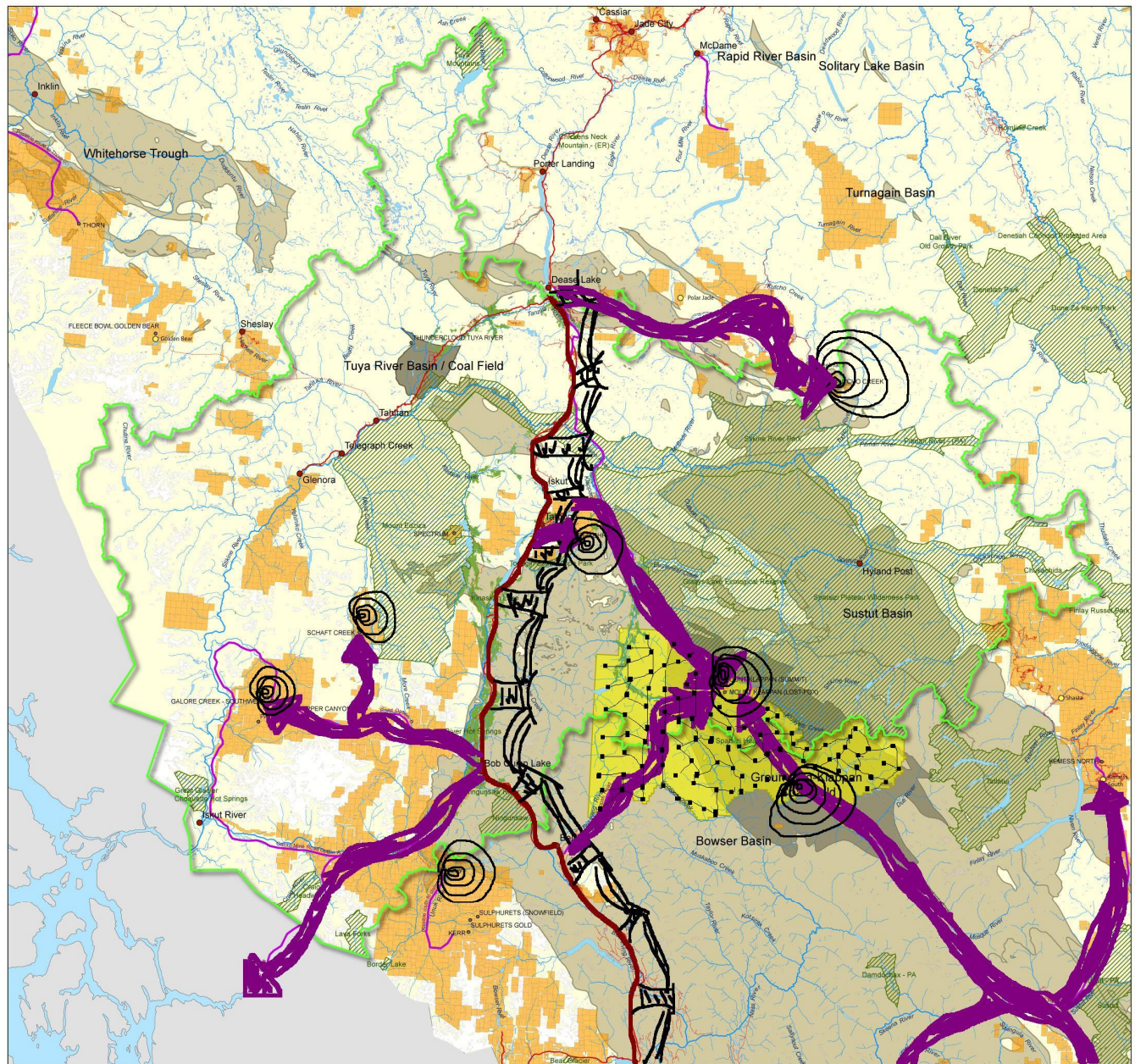
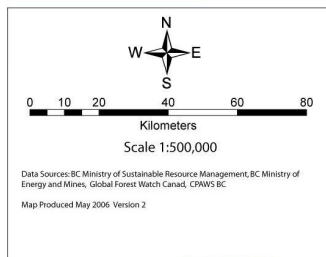


**Mining claims in and around the Stikine watershed.**

**Yellow: claims before the online staking system. Red: claims made in January 2005 when online system initiated.**



# Stikine Region Potential Development



Proposed resource development in the Stikine, including mines, power lines and coal bed methane. Iskut is in the middle somewhere.



# Nass Headwaters





# Stikine Headwaters





# Spatsizi Headwaters





# Skeena Headwaters





# Klappan Mountain





# Todagin Mountain





# Todagin Mountain





# Black Lake, Todagin Mountain



## **Proposed resource development in Tahltan traditional territory and the Sacred Headwaters:**

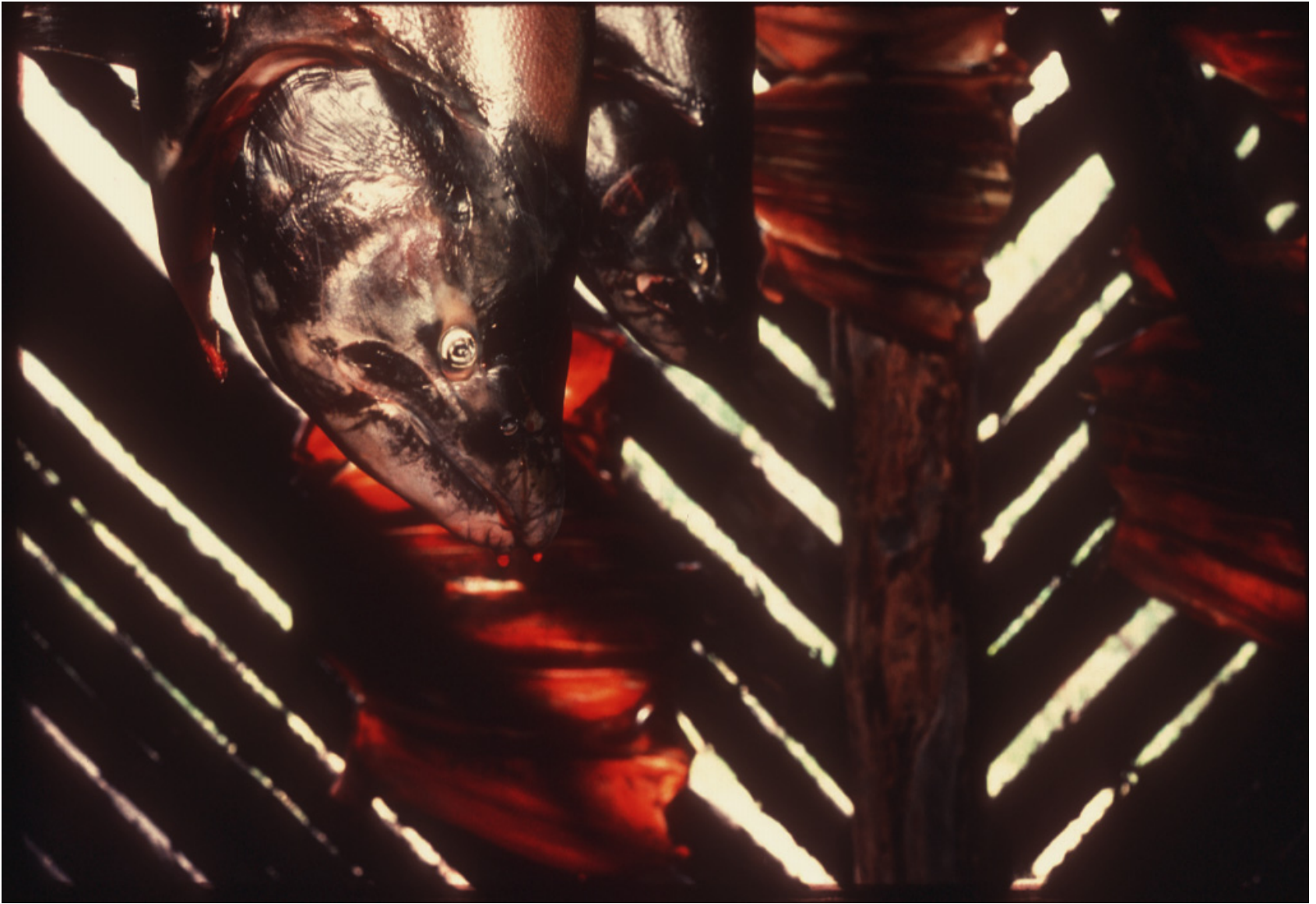
1. Galore Creek Mine— Nova Gold Inc
2. Red Chris Mine— bcMetals and Red Chris Development Corp
3. Kutcho Creek – Western Keltic Mines Ltd
4. Mt.Klappan Coal Mine and coal-fired power plant— Fortune Minerals
5. Klappan Coal Bed Methane – Shell Canada
6. Groundhog Coal – Westhawk Development Corp
7. Rok Coyote Eddon – Firesteel Resources
8. Schaft Creek – Copper Fox Metals Inc
9. Forrest Kerr Hydroelectric project – Nova Gold Inc
10. Foremore – Roca Mines Inc
11. GJ (Kinaskan) – Canadian Gold Hunter Corp
12. Extension of power grid up Highway 37 North
13. Extension of the rail grade north to Alaska
14. Bradfield road connection to Alaska

This is not a complete list of all exploration and proposed projects.

The relationship between an aboriginal community and the lands over which it has aboriginal title has an important non-economic component. The land has an inherent and unique value in itself, which is enjoyed by the community with aboriginal title to it

– *Delgamuukw decision, 1997*





**Salmon is a major part of Tahltan culture.**



**Tahltan community members at one of their many camps**





**Culturally modified tree (CMT). This tree was modified as a traditional trail marker, commonly known as a 'blazed tree'.**



Our elders are dying. They know the Klappan.  
They need to teach us our ways. We need the  
Klappan to have these teachings.  
*-Community member*







**Moose marrow is a delicious cuisine in Tahltan and other aboriginal cultures.**





**Using the land is an integral part of Tahltan culture.**





**Tahltan traditional territory is rich with healthy populations of mountain goats (above), Stone's sheep, grizzly and black bears, moose, caribou, and wolves.**





**Many Tahltan members have traditional camps throughout the Stikine watershed. Spending time with elders on the land is critical for passing traditional knowledge to the next generation.**





**Culture camp in the Klappan area**





**Children at play in the winter with traditional dogsled team**



Where will our people go if the Klappan is gone? It will never be the same if we let the mining and oil companies work up there.

-Iskut elder







**Red Chris project camp on Todagin Mountain**





**Example of road impacts from mineral exploration**





**Exploration in Klappan area**





**Coal bed methane discharge reservoirs  
in the Powder River Basin**





**Drill sites in Grand Prairie area**





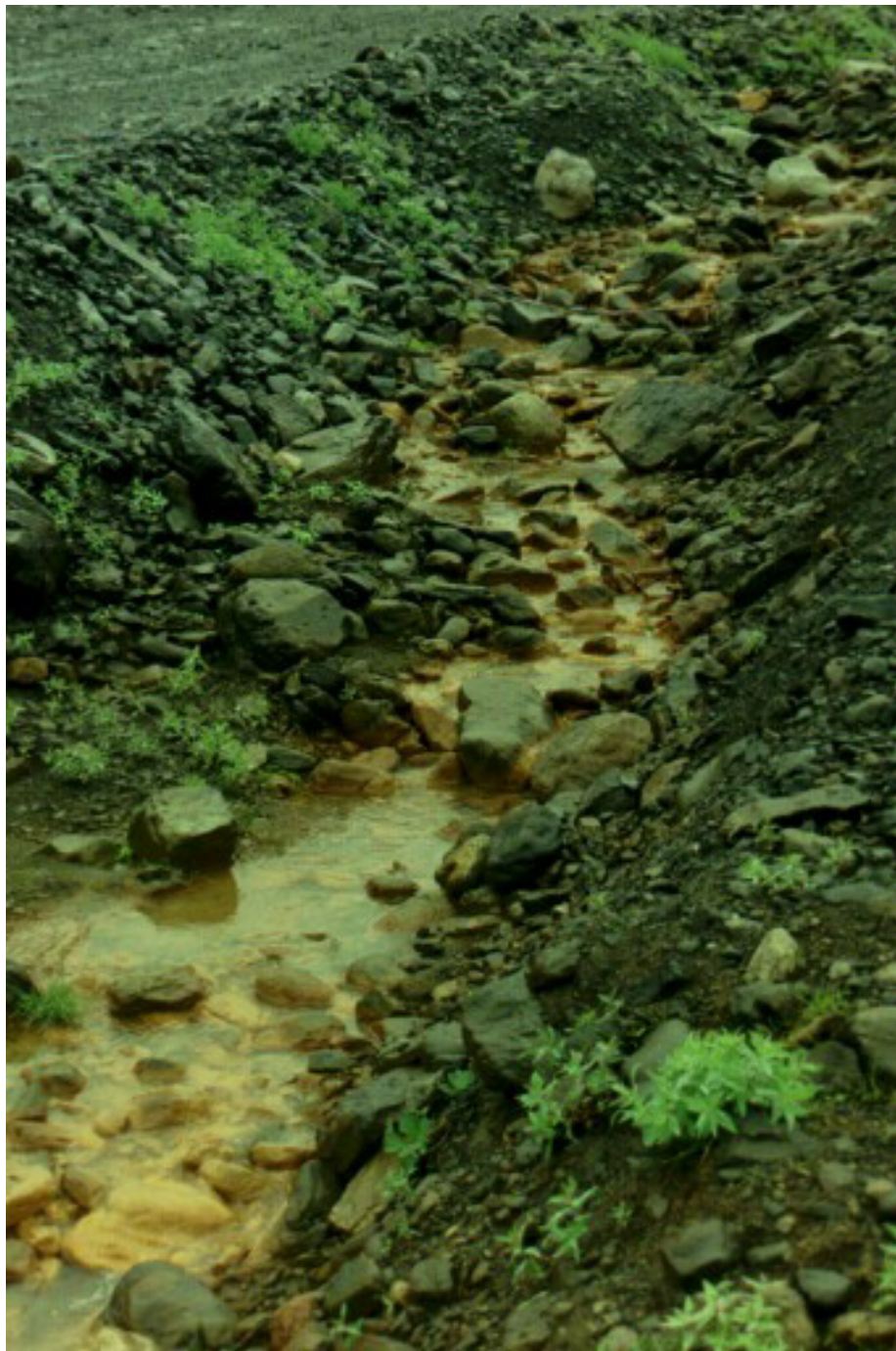
Acid mine drainage from  
Equity Silver mine site.





**Sludge pit, Equity Silver Mine.**





**Johnny Mountain  
Mine site.**





**Bell Mine pit.**



# Fortune Minerals Camp



**Klappan**



# Fortune Minerals Drill Site



Klappan



# Coal Bed Methane Test Site



Klappan



# Galore Creek Camp







We did not inherit this land from our grandparents,  
we are borrowing it from our grandchildren.



In September 2005, 9 elders and 6 other community members and supporters were arrested for blockading resource development access to the Klappan and Sacred Headwaters area.



# Traditional Greeting with Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs





# Wet'suwet'en



**Standing in support of the Klabona Keepers**



# Jerry Quock



# Lillian Moyer



# Jenny Quock





We have a responsibility to our  
Ancestors to protect Klappan – *Iskut Elder*





# James Dennis





# Mabel Dennis





# Bertha Louie



# Dempsey Quock



# Rita Louie





I'll get arrested  
again to save  
the Klappan.  
-Iskut Elder





# Mary Quock





# Erma Bourquin





# John Nole





# Wilma Wilson





# Simon Brown (Wet'suwet'en supporter)





In August 2006, brought together by the threat of cultural genocide that would follow excessive resource development in Sacred places, these Nations gathered at the Sacred Headwaters:

**Tahltan, Iskut, Wet'sewut'en, Gitxsan  
Taku River Tlingit, Haisla, Haida, and  
Tsay Keh Dene**

These Nations of northwest BC represent the land stewards whose territories flow from the headwaters of the Skeena, Stikine, Nass, Findlay, and Taku down to and beyond the Pacific Ocean.

**In solidarity, they declared...**



At this Sacred Headwaters where so many rivers  
are born, we the people of the Stikine, Iskut,  
Skene, Nass, Finlay, Taku, Bulkley and Morice  
commit ourselves to protect our lands from  
unwanted resource development.

In the memories and spirit of our ancestors, and  
for all our children to come, we commit ourselves  
to defend our headwaters wild, beautiful and  
sacred forever.

August 5, 2006

Gitksan  
Nancy Loring  
Susan Lee  
Lo Yo Angagoodit  
Vilps Winnossik  
DR Flaw  
Ellen Johnson

Klabona Keepers  
Jerry Quock  
Hans Quock  
Mabel Dennis  
Rita Lennie  
Jenny Quock  
James Dennis  
Tsay Keh Dene  
Bill Poole

Taku River First  
Nah  
Iskut Band Council  
Marie Quock  
Ramona Quock

Wetsuweten  
Adam Brown  
Harbie Naziel  
Lucy Namox  
Jeff Brown  
Alfred Joseph  
Frank Patrick  
Alphonse Laguerre





**Elders welcome guests to the Klappan, to the Sacred Headwaters Gathering while the younger generations listen and learn.**



**Many people from  
beyond the Sacred  
Headwaters area  
support the  
struggle.**

**Dr. Wade Davis**



**Dr. David Suzuki**



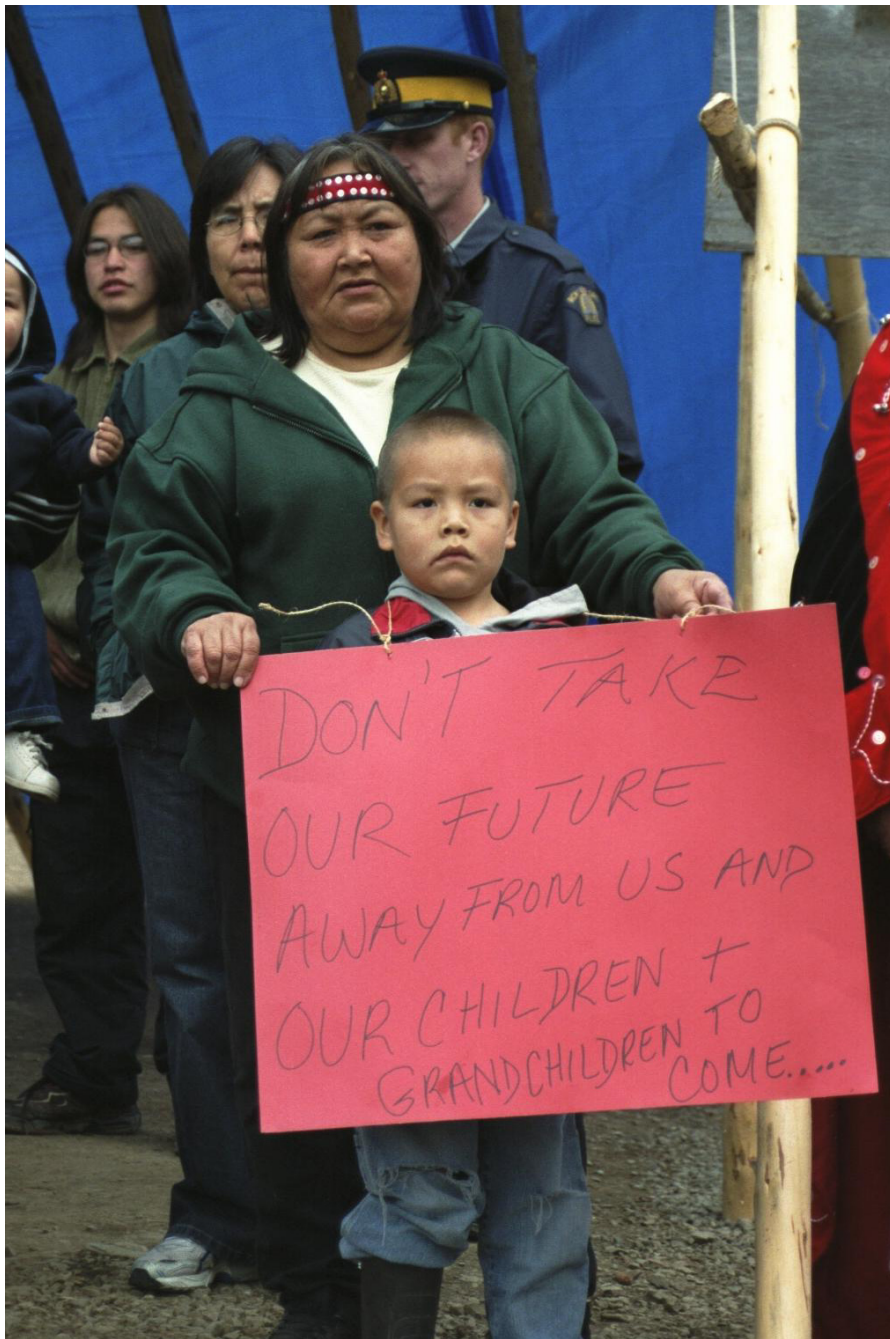




In September 2006, one elder, Lillian Moyer, was arrested for blockading resource development access to Todagin Mountain.









“To those who would despoil our homeland,  
we say this: we will never dishonor those  
who have gone before us, and whose  
bones are now part of the earth beneath  
our feet. Long ago our people established  
laws to protect the land and waters and  
the animals and plants that live among  
us...”



“...We are not opposed to economic development on our homeland and deeply desire economic justice and opportunity for all people, and especially our children. There are places within our territories we are willing to share with those who come to us in respect, those who recognize our place on this land, and those who understand we have traditions and laws we are obliged to honor.”

*-Klappan Declaration, 2005*



This place can remain a wonder and inspiration for all, for all time, if only we respect its beauty and richness.





**[www.sacredheadwaters.com](http://www.sacredheadwaters.com)**