

**A RESOLUTION CONCERNING COALBED METHANE DEVELOPMENT
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA'S SACRED HEADWATERS**

May 2008

WHEREAS To date there has been no commercial extraction of coalbed methane gas in British Columbia.

AND WHEREAS Coalbed methane extraction in other North American jurisdictions has caused significant harm to water, wildlife and rural economies.

AND WHEREAS Coalbed methane has never been commercially extracted in a wild-salmon-bearing watershed.

AND WHEREAS The Skeena, Nass and Stikine Rivers support three of North America's richest wild salmon fisheries, which in turn contribute to Northwest British Columbia's vibrant cultures and economy.

AND WHEREAS The headwaters of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine Rivers is home to robust populations of large mammals including stone sheep, grizzly bears, and Osborne caribou, which have been shown to be sensitive to landscape fragmentation caused by linear developments such as roads and pipelines.

AND WHEREAS Shell Canada Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell, is planning to drill exploratory coalbed methane wells at the headwaters of the Skeena and Stikine Rivers, for the purpose of determining the extent and feasibility of the resource.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT We the undersigned respectfully request that the British Columbia government

- (1) Immediately suspend coalbed methane exploration in the Klappan-Groundhog tenure area;
- (2) Engage in comprehensive consultations with all residents of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine watersheds and estuaries;
- (3) Not proceed with coalbed methane development in the Klappan-Groundhog area until there is compelling evidence of environmental safety, and residents of the region are satisfied such development does not jeopardize their values and existing economic activities.

Signature

Organization

Date