



Gitksan Treaty Office

NEWS RELEASE

March 28, 2008
10:00 a.m. PST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Energy Development Tops Agenda at First Nations Forum

Hazelton, BC – First Nations from across Northwest BC are gathering at Gitanmaax Hall on April 7 to discuss the cumulative impacts of energy development on their traditional territories. The Gitksan Treaty Office is hosting the forum, entitled *Connecting the Drops: Planning for Prosperity*.

“This is an opportunity for watershed workers and lands and resource staff from First Nations in the northwest to learn from each other about proposed energy developments and explore strategies for reducing their impacts,” said forum organizer Doug Donaldson. “Predicting the impacts of individual projects is getting better but adequately assessing the effects of multiple projects needs work. We hope this forum will be the start of a longer regional discussion on this important topic.”

Invited attendees will share development stories from their territory and participate in interactive mapping exercises. **Watershed workers and lands and resource staff are the main audience for the forum.**

Keynote speaker **Don Ryan** will share the Treaty 8 Tribal Association’s experience with oil and gas development in Northeast BC.

George Muldoe (Gitksan) and **Alphonse Gagnon** (Wet’suwet’en) have just returned from a tour of the Alberta Tar Sands organized by the Pembina Institute and will be available to share their reflections with those at the forum.

Connecting the Drops precedes Minerals North, a major regional conference for BC’s mining industry being held this year in Smithers, April 16-18.

For more information:

Doug Donaldson 250 842-6780
 250 842-6500