ADVICE TO MINISTER

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BC Nature Annual General Meeting

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations May 12, 2012

Not Responsive

ADVICE TO MINISTER

Not Responsive

ADVICE TO MINISTER

10. What is the government's position with respect to the use of fracking in natural gas extraction?

- Natural gas and petroleum activities in B.C. are subject to some of the world's most stringent environmental standards and procedures.
- Fracking is a technological practice that is used safely in British Columbia.
- Water use for shale gas development is tightly monitored, with strict provisions for containment.
- Provincial regulations ensure that potable groundwater is protected by using drilling practices that encase fracking fluid inside the well bore when being used, so it cannot enter potable water aquifers.
- Water in B.C.., including water used for shale gas development, is protected through legislation – the Water Act, the Groundwater Protection Act and the Drilling and Production Regulation.
- Regulations under the Oil and Gas Activities Act, brought in last year, strengthen the regulatory powers and requirements around fracking and water use.

Not Responsive

Questions & Answers
Page 5

6 of 48

Morrison, Trevor FLNR:EX

From: Murry, Sean FLNR:EX

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 12:56 PM

To: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX Cc: Southern, Evan JAG:EX

Subject: FW: Briefing Note for March 7, 2012 C2M meeting

Attachments: Briefing Notes Mar_7_2012_To_Minister's_ March 06, 2012.doc

For the meeting tomorrow

From: Brown, Cayley ABR:EX

Sent: Tuesday, March 6, 2012 12:53 PM

To: Giddens, Kiel ENV:EX; Chawrun, Marc MEM:EX; Bell, Jordan MEM:EX; Southern, Evan FLNR:EX; Murry, Sean

FLNR:EX

Cc: Costa, Frank ABR:EX

Subject: Briefing Note for March 7, 2012 C2M meeting

Hello,

Attached is a BN provided by Treaty 8 for our Minister's to Chiefs' meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Outlined in their BN are issues that they would like to raise with each of your Minister's. You may want to send over to your DMOs as well.

Cayley Brown

Executive Assistant to the Honourable Mary Polak Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Province of British Columbia

Phone: (250) 387-6618

E-mail: cayley.brown@gov.bc.ca





Briefing Note for March 07, 2012

To: Minister Thomson, Minister Lake, Minister Polak,

Minister Coleman

From: Chief Roland Willson, Chief Lynette Tsakoza and Chief Norman Davis;

Treaty 8 First Nation Economic Benefit Agreement Chiefs

Date: March 05, 2012

Re: Annual Chiefs' to Ministers' Forum

s.13, s.16

Morrison, Trevor FLNR:EX

From: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX

Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 9:12 AM

To: 'lana.lowe@fnnation.ca'

Subject: Invitation: Keepers of the Water VI

Thank you for your email sent on July 12th. Unfortunately Minister Thomson will be unable to attend as we have meetings booked that week as the Union of BC Municipalities will be holding their annual convention here in Victoria. Please accept Minister Thomson's best wishes for a well attended and informative event.

Claire Vessey

Claire Vessey

Administrative Co-ordinator to the Honourable Steve Thomson Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

Rm. 248, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V IX4

Phone: (250) 356-6211 Fax: (250) 387-1040 claire.vessey@gov.bc.ca

From: Lana Lowe [mailto:lana.lowe@fnnation.ca]

Sent: July-12-12 5:25 PM **To:** Thomson.MLA, Steve

Subject: Invitation: Keepers of the Water VI

Dear Minister Thompson,

On behalf of the FNFN, I'd like to invite you to attend the Keepers of the Water VI conference, to be hosted by FNFN from September 26-29th at the Fort Nelson Rec Centre!

We are finalizing the agenda right now, but I can tell you that the theme of the conference is collaborative approaches to watershed management. As you can imagine, the Liard and Horn River Basins and fracking are topics of discussion and concern. Our hope is that we can start working toward some solutions that will allow government, industry, and local communities to better manage water use in the Fort Nelson-Liard River watersheds.

The conference will be facilitated by David Marshall (Fraser Basin Council) with keynote presentations from: Wade Davis (National Geographic), Jon Waterhouse (Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed Council) and Maude Barlow (Council of Canadians). We will also have a series of panel discussions and workshops on shale gas, collaborative watershed management, and Keepers of the Water initiatives.

I have attached an invitation from Chief Dickie, along with registration and accommodation information. A hard copy invitation will follow in the mail.

We hope to see you there!

Thank You! Mussi Cho!

Lana Lowe Lands Director Fort Nelson First Nation Tel: 250-774-6313

Fax: 250-774-6317 http://lands.fnnation.ca/ http://keepersofthewater.ca

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email and my attachments are confidential and protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this email and any attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact me immediately by return email and delete this copy from your system. Thank you.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email and my attachments are confidential and protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this email and any attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact me immediately by return email and delete this copy from your system. Thank you.

Morrison, Trevor FLNR:EX

From: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 9:04 AM
Tax

To: 'lana.lowe@fnnation.ca'

Subject: Sept. 26-29 Invitation: Keepers of the Water VI

Thank you for the invitation to Minister Thomson to attend your conference being held from September $26^{th} - 29^{th}$ in Fort Nelson. I have printed a copy of your invitation and will bring it to the Minister's attention. Unfortunately your event is being held the same time as the Union of BC Municipalities Convention which is being held in Victoria that week and Minister Thomson already has quite a few meetings scheduled.

Once Minister Thomson has given me some direction regarding your invitation, I will be in touch with you. Thank you.

Claire Vessey

Claire Vessey Administrative Co-ordinator to the

Honourable Steve Thomson Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Rm. 248, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V IX4

Phone: (250) 356-6211 Fax: (250) 387-1040 claire.vessey@gov.bc.ca

From: Lana Lowe [mailto:lana.lowe@fnnation.ca]

Sent: July-12-12 5:25 PM **To:** Thomson.MLA, Steve

Subject: Invitation: Keepers of the Water VI

Dear Minister Thompson,

On behalf of the FNFN, I'd like to invite you to attend the Keepers of the Water VI conference, to be hosted by FNFN from September 26-29th at the Fort Nelson Rec Centre!

We are finalizing the agenda right now, but I can tell you that the theme of the conference is collaborative approaches to watershed management. As you can imagine, the Liard and Horn River Basins and fracking are topics of discussion and concern. Our hope is that we can start working toward some solutions that will allow government, industry, and local communities to better manage water use in the Fort Nelson-Liard River watersheds.

The conference will be facilitated by David Marshall (Fraser Basin Council) with keynote presentations from: Wade Davis (National Geographic), Jon Waterhouse (Yukon River Inter-tribal Watershed Council) and Maude Barlow (Council of Canadians). We will also have a series of panel discussions and workshops on shale gas, collaborative watershed management, and Keepers of the Water initiatives.

I have attached an invitation from Chief Dickie, along with registration and accommodation information. A hard copy invitation will follow in the mail.

We hope to see you there!

Thank You! Mussi Cho!

Lana Lowe Lands Director Fort Nelson First Nation Tel: 250-774-6313

Fax: 250-774-6317 http://lands.fnnation.ca/ http://keepersofthewater.ca

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email and my attachments are confidential and protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this email and any attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact me immediately by return email and delete this copy from your system. Thank you.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This email and my attachments are confidential and protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of this email and any attachments is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact me immediately by return email and delete this copy from your system. Thank you.

Morrison, Trevor FLNR:EX

From: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 1:44 PM

To: Stewart, Ashley EMNG:EX

Subject: FW: Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Attachments: Invitation to Minister Thomson for the Ag Env Partnership committee 15Feb12.pdf; PC

Meeting March 2012- Agenda.pdf

For cliffing

Claire Vessey

Claire Vessey

Administrative Co-ordinator to the Honourable Steve Thomson

Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

Rm. 248, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V IX4

Phone: (250) 356-6211 Fax: (250) 387-1040 claire.vessey@gov.bc.ca

From: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX

Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 10:15 AM

To: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX

Subject: FW: Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Hi,

Can you please advise regarding the meeting request attached? We will log this and wait for your advice.

Thanks, Amber

From: Reg Ens [mailto:reg@bcac.bc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:18 AM

To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX

Subject: Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Minister Thomson

The BC Agriculture Council Attached and the Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment invites you to attend the March 8 meeting in Victoria.

Reg Ens, P.Ag. Executive Director

B.C. Agriculture Council

#230-32160 South Fraser Way Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 1W5

Phone 604-854-4454 Toll Free 1-866-522-3447

Fax 604-854-4485 www.bcac.bc.ca



15 February, 2012

The Honourable Steve Thomson Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Via email: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Thomson:

Invitation to March 8th meeting of Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

The Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment was established as a key channel for government and industry to discuss environmental issues affecting B.C. farmers and ranchers. It has proven to be an effective way for all participants to collaborate on difficult issues.

The committee meets annually in Victoria and the respective Ministers are invited to participate. The Committee would like to invite you to the March 8th, 2012, meeting at the Harbour Towers & Suites at 12:15pm. As per the draft agenda (copy attached), there is time for a short address from each Minister.

Please confirm your availability to Reg Ens, Executive Director of BCAC (reg@bcac.bc.ca). Thank you for your ongoing support of the agriculture and agrifood sector.

Yours truly,

Allen James

Co-Chair

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

c. Honourable Don McRae, Minister of Agriculture
 Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment
 Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister, B.C. Ministry of Agriculture
 Cairine MacDonald, Deputy Minister, B.C. Ministry of Environment
 Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister, B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

P: 604.854.4454 T: 866.522.3447 F: 604.854.4485

Partnership Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Meeting 43 Draft Agenda

DATE: March 8th 2012

TIME: 8:45 am

LOCATION: Harbour Towers Hotel and Suites

345 Quebec Street, Victoria, BC

Phone: 250-480-6564

Chair - BCAC - Allan James

8:45 am Introductions and Review Agenda

Approval of Minutes from November 3rd, 2011 meeting in Richmond

Partnership Committee Review

9:00 am Terms of Reference review

Issues List

Membership review - List of priorities

Waste Management

9:30 am Package Recycling - CleanFarms – Barry Friesen

10:30 am Coffee

10:45 am Agriculture Waste Control Regulation Review - TBD

12:15 Lunch- Ministers of Agriculture, Environment and Forest, Lands and Natural

Resources invited to meeting

Wildlife and Habitat

1:00 pm SARA - Nooksack Dace Salish Sucker Recovery Plan – DFO

Water Act Modernization

2:15 pm MOE Update on status of WAM

2:30 pm BCAC Principles Agriculture Water Reserve – Lorne Hunter BCAC

Agriculture Water Reserve Pilot - AGRI

Ranching Task Force Report regarding water

Committee and other Reports Verbal and Written

Nutrient Management and Air Quality Committee Report

Habitat and Farmland Committee Report – handed out at meeting

Hydraulic Fracking Workshop

3:15 pm Next meeting and Adjourn

Morrison, Trevor FLNR:EX

From: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2012 10:36 AM
To: Stewart, Ashley EMNG:EX

Subject: Coalbed methane in the Sacred Headwaters/Klappan

Attachments: 8 June 2012_Letter to FLNRO.pdf; 2012 June gvt briefing full_Email.pdf

For cliffing. Thanks.

Claire Vessey

Claire Vessey

Administrative Co-ordinator to the Honourable Steve Thomson

Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Rm. 248, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V IX4

Phone: (250) 356-6211 Fax: (250) 387-1040 claire.vessey@gov.bc.ca

From: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX **Sent:** Friday, June 8, 2012 10:22 AM

To: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX

Subject: FW: Coalbed methane in the Sacred Headwaters/Klappan

Hi Claire! Please log as mtg request

Thank You! Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison, Manager Correspondence Services 4th Floor, 780 Blanshard Tel: 250-356-9638 Fax: 250-356-6791 sonia.donison@gov.bc.ca

From: Karen Tam Wu [mailto:karen@forestethicsadvocacy.org]

Sent: Friday, June 8, 2012 8:01 AM

To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX

Cc: Konkin, Doug FLNR:EX; Townsend, Gary FLNR:EX; Peterson, Dave FLNR:EX

Subject: Coalbed methane in the Sacred Headwaters/Klappan

Dear Minister Thomson:

Please find attached a letter requesting a meeting and briefing document for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Karen

Karen Tam Wu, RPF Senior Conservation Campaigner

ForestEthics

ADVOCACY

tel: 604.331.6201, ext. 226

Morrison, Trevor FLNR:EX

From: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX
Sent: Friday, June 22, 2012 10:57 AM

To: Gajda, Gail EMNG:EX

Subject: Coalbed methane in the Sacred Headwaters/Klappan

Attachments: 8 June 2012_Letter to FLNRO.pdf; 2012 June gvt briefing full_Email.pdf

Here are the attachments to the email I just sent you.

Claire Vessey

Claire Vessey

Administrative Co-ordinator to the Honourable Steve Thomson

Minister of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Rm. 248, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC V8V IX4

Phone: (250) 356-6211 Fax: (250) 387-1040 claire.vessey@gov.bc.ca

From: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX **Sent:** Friday, June 8, 2012 10:22 AM

To: Vessey, Claire FLNR:EX

Subject: Coalbed methane in the Sacred Headwaters/Klappan

Hi Claire! Please log as mtg request

Thank You! Di Bohja!

Sonia Donison, Manager Correspondence Services 4th Floor, 780 Blanshard Tel: 250-356-9638 Fax: 250-356-6791 sonia.donison@gov.bc.ca

From: Karen Tam Wu [mailto:karen@forestethicsadvocacy.org]

Sent: Friday, June 8, 2012 8:01 AM

To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX

Cc: Konkin, Doug FLNR:EX; Townsend, Gary FLNR:EX; Peterson, Dave FLNR:EX

Subject: Coalbed methane in the Sacred Headwaters/Klappan

Dear Minister Thomson:

Please find attached a letter requesting a meeting and briefing document for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Karen

Karen Tam Wu, RPF Senior Conservation Campaigner

ForestEthics

ADVOCACY

tel: 604.331.6201, ext. 226





8 June 2012

Dear Honourable Steve Thomson,

RE: Coalbed methane in Sacred Headwaters/Klappan

On December 5, 2008, Minister Neufeld signed Order in Council no. 890, imposing a temporary moratorium on Shell's coalbed methane-related activities in the Klappan. In six months time, this coming December, the period of inactivity expires. Based on a statement made by Minister Coleman in the Legislature earlier this week, we understand that Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation has a mandate to have discussions with Shell and the Tahltan First Nation. We feel that Forest, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations may have an important role in resolving the uncertainty in the Sacred Headwaters and achieving a solution in the region, and we are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss this.

Since Shell was granted the rights to develop coalbed methane in the Klappan-Groundhog tenure area in 2004, the project has generated much attention and controversy in B.C.:

- In 2006, additional drilling permits were approved on the assumption that no salmon were present within the tenure area, but in 2007, spawning salmon were documented near the approved drill sites.
- In 2008, the Skeena Independent Science Review Panel cites Shell's project as a major threat to wild salmon habitat in the Skeena.
- A poll conducted in 2008 finds that seven out of ten B.C. residents oppose the development of coalbed methane in salmon watersheds.
- Eight First Nations band councils, five municipal governments, and two regional governments - representing all levels of government in the region- signed resolutions opposing the project.
- The Union of BC Municipalities passed a resolution in 2008 opposing coalbed methane development in the Sacred Headwaters.
- NDP captured remaining two Liberal ridings in northwest B.C. during last provincial election; Sacred Headwaters conflict cited as the defining issue.
- National and international media generated due to blockades and international protests.
- The headwaters of the Skeena, Nass, and Stikine topped BC's Most Endangered Rivers List in 2010, 2011, and 2012.
- During the last municipal elections, 100% of candidates polled across six communities and two regional districts in the recent municipal election support protection of the Sacred Headwaters.

The Tahltan First Nation, on whose territory Shell's tenure lies, have taken several steps to demonstrate their position to protect the Klappan:

- In 2005, Tahltan Elders Statement was created (*Dena nenn Sogga neh'ine*), declaring a moratorium on resource development in the territory.
- The Klappan Declaration (*Tl'abne 'ani Dahth'ke noh'dih*) is born out of the 2005 blockade of Shell, declaring the Sacred Headwaters be held in Sacred Trust for all time and endorsed by 8 neighbouring First Nations
- The Tahltan blockaded Shell's road access during the field seasons from 2005 through 2007, resulting in several arrests

- The Tahltan successfully litigated against Shell as a result of misleading information given to public about the CBM project in 2008
- First Nations and communities do not want to put the salmon ecosystems at risk by
 exposing the headwaters of the Skeena, Nass, and Stikine to coalbed methane
 development, which has never before been done in salmon ecosystems. The Klappan is
 culturally significant, as it is the source of creation stories for several First Nations in the
 northwest. Skeena wild salmon contribute \$110 million annually to the local economy,
 and guide-outfitting contributes \$28 million.

As Shell moves forward with plans to develop liquefied natural gas operations in the northwest, Shell's reputation in the region precedes them. It is premature for your B.C. government and Shell to pursue another development while the Sacred Headwaters issue remains unresolved.

We commend the government's decision to put a moratorium in place in 2008, in order to create the time and space to work on a permanent solution to the conflict in the Sacred Headwaters. As such, our organizations have suspended much of our public campaign during this time.

Opposition to coalbed methane development in the Sacred Headwaters remains strong, and it is timely to create a solution for this issue. Certainty for communities and for Shell moving forward is much needed.

We realize that crafting the terms of a resolution amenable to all parties will take time. With only months remaining in the moratorium and an upcoming election, we would like to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the future of the Sacred Headwaters, and to ensure a solid plan is in place to safeguard this area that has global significance.

Please contact Karen Tam Wu at 778.846.5647 or karen@forestethics.org to arrange a meeting. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Karen Tam Wu Senior Conservation Campaigner ForestEthics Advocacy Shannon McPhail Executive Director Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition

Cc

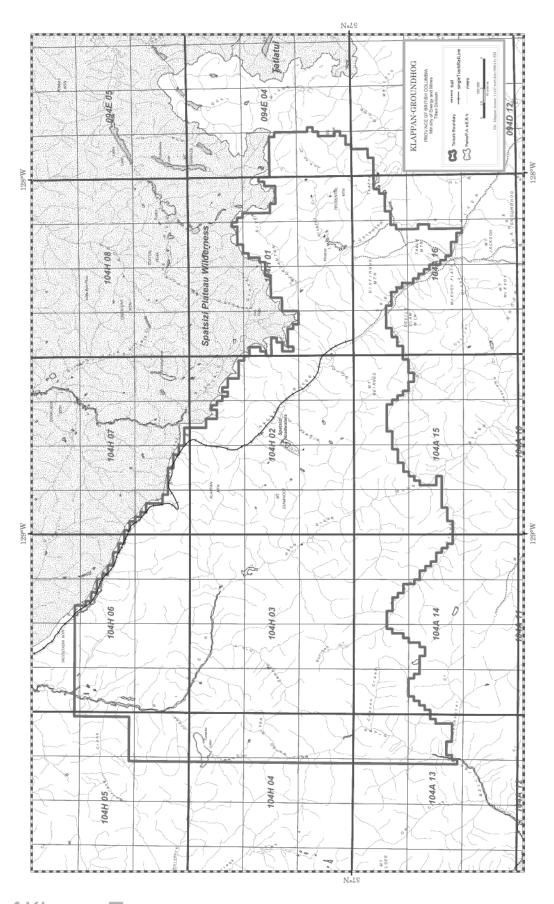
Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister, Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations Dave Peterson, Assistant Deputy Minister, Tenures, Competitiveness and Innovation Division

Gary Townsend, Assistant Deputy Minister, Integrated Resource Operations Division

Page 38 to/à Page 42

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright



Map of Klappan Tenure

Protest against Shell takes campaign to British media

CATHRYN ATKINSON Special to The Globe and Mail September 11, 2007

Copyright

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.

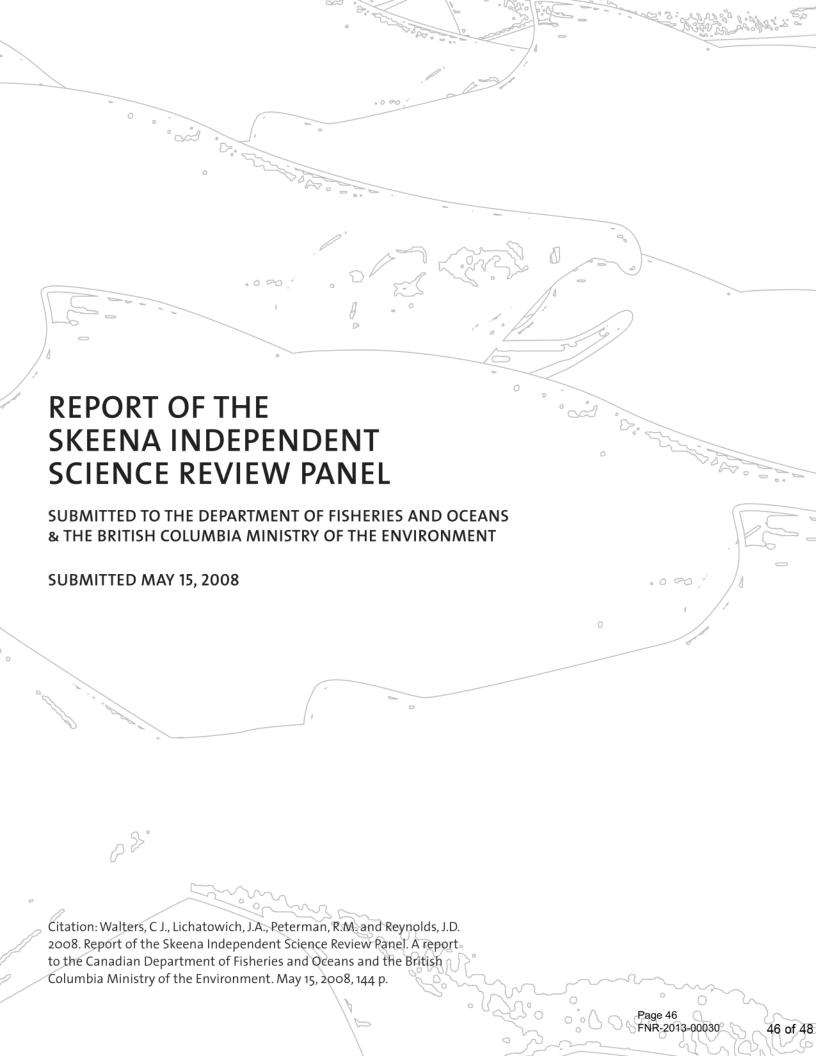
BE IT RESOLVED THAT We the undersigned respectfully request that the British Columbia government

- (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.

Resolution passed by:

City of Prince Rupert
Town of Smithers
Village of Hazelton
Village of New Hazelton
Skeena-Queen Charlotte Regional District
Kitimat-Stikine Regional District
Union of Fishermen and Allied Workers
Lax'kwalaams Band Council
Greenville Band Council

New Aiyansh Band Council
Gitxsan Hereditary Chiefs
Gitanmaax Band Council
Gitsegukla Band Council
Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs
Hagwilget Band Council
Moricetown Band Council
Union of BC Municipalities



Page 47 to/à Page 48

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

Copyright