



FOUNDATION AGREEMENT UPDATE: BELL AND GRANISLE MINES

Under the Lake Babine Foundation Agreement, Lake Babine Nation (LBN) and British Columbia are working together to develop and collaboratively implement compliance and monitoring measures related to the Bell and Granisle Mines on Babine Lake (Shared Decision-Making Milestone 4). This is in response to concerns raised by LBN community citizens about the environmental health of Babine Lake and the potential of direct and cumulative impacts from the Bell and Granisle Mines. We need to ensure our *yintah* is healthy and that we can safely sustain ourselves from it. We need data collection and studies that we have been fully involved in to assess safety of our water and the foods we depend on, such as freshwater mussels, whitefish, trout, suckerfish, lingcod, and char from the mine area.

Through collaboration, LBN will work with the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation to strengthen monitoring related to Bell and Granisle Mines. We will build on current programs using both western science and LBN's Indigenous knowledge. We will also provide regular progress updates to LBN citizens.

Lake Babine and British Columbia's shared goals are to:

- a. Strengthen monitoring of potential impacts of Bell/Granisle by building on current programs and integrating western science with LBN's Indigenous knowledge;
- b. Strengthen shared stewardship and management of Babine and Morrison Lake water quality, including considering whether existing permit conditions are sufficiently protective of the environment and human health;
- c. Develop shared understanding of current aquatic environmental conditions in selected waterbodies within the Territory in connection with historic and legacy mine sites or as relevant reference data;
- d. Build strong working relationships between LBN, BC and (ideally) the mine owner through partnerships in research and monitoring;
- e. Strengthen communication and information sharing with Lake Babine members; and
- f. Build understanding of Bell/Granisle mines and confidence in the safety and sustenance of Lake Babine's *yintah*.

Going forward, LBN will regularly share updates of monitoring results with LBN citizens. These updates will communicate the work being done and any risk that may be posed by the Bell and Granisle Mines.

“Maintaining the environmental health of Babine Lake is vital to the community and we welcome this opportunity to work with the Lake Babine Nation under the Foundation Agreement,” said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. “This partnership will build on the work already done by the Province to monitor water quality around legacy mine sites in the territory and ensure healthy lake ecosystems continue to support healthy communities and wildlife in the region.”



LAKE BABINE NATION

“We share the desire to ensure that water leaving the Bell and Granisle mine sites meets water quality objectives. We are committed to working with Lake Babine Nation through the Lake Babine Nation Foundation Agreement. That Agreement commits us to collaboratively develop and implement compliance and monitoring measures at historic and legacy mine sites.” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation.

Chief Murphy Abraham: The concerns have been long outstanding for the community of Old Fort. The proposed research will help the Nation understand any environmental concerns and confirm whether it is safe to harvest near the Bell/Granisle mine sites. Doing this work in partnership with BC means we are pooling our knowledge and expertise. I expect this partnership to produce strong monitoring programs and information that can be trusted by the members of Lake Babine.

For further information, please contact LBN Fisheries Director, Donna Macintyre at donna.macintyre@telus.net.