

**PILALT NATION**

51888 Old Yale Rd.
Rosedale, BC V0X 1X0
junequipp@hotmail.com

Sutikalh

P.O. Box 309,
Mount Currie, BC V0N 2K0,
sutikalh2003@telus.net

Skwelkwelt

c/o P.O. BOX 608
Chase, BC V0E 1M0
jrbilly@mail.ocis.net

PRESS RELEASE

ABORIGINAL GROUPS OPPOSE REMOVAL OF ACTIVISTS AT EAGLERIDGE BLUFFS

Salish Territory, 25 May 2006

As Indigenous Peoples and activists we stand in solidarity with the grassroots movement to stop the destruction of Eagleridge Bluffs, an endangered hot spot of biodiversity located in West Vancouver, British Columbia.

We oppose any actions by developers and the RCMP that violate the human rights of the people peacefully protecting Eagleridge Bluffs against further environmental destruction by the expansion of the Sea-to-Sky Highway. This mega-highway provides not only infrastructure for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics but also further mega developments and destruction in the Indigenous Territories around the resort and recreation town of Whistler.

Since May 2000 the St'at'imc Nation has maintained the Sutikalh camp to oppose the construction of another ski resort that would destroy one of the last remaining untouched valleys in St'at'imc Territory. Rosalin Sam, spokesperson of the Sutikalh Camp, states:

“We support the people who want to protect Eagleridge Bluffs. This move by the developers and the RCMP unmask the true driving force behind the 2010 Winter Olympics. This is not about a peaceful meeting of the nations, this is about railroading destructive mega-developments into our territories. The 2010 Games are not green games, all they have brought to our territory so far is destruction and environmental devastation.”

By allowing the destruction of Eagleridge Bluffs, the governments of Canada and British Columbia are violating the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, under which they promised by 2010 to significantly reduce the current loss of biodiversity. This internationally known target is being undermined by developers who stand to profit from the 2010 Olympic Games while paying lip service to sustainability. Aboriginal title, environmental degradation and social issues such as human rights are being ignored. Many Aboriginal Nations in British Columbia view the 2010 Olympic Games as one of the drivers of mega-development such as ski resorts that aim to further destroy their territories.

Another large ski resort is proposed for Mount Cheam, sacred land of the Pilalt. June Quipp of the Pilalt People states: “I support Harriet Nahanee who - as an elder from Squamish - is standing up to protect her land at Eagleridge Bluffs. The authorities have no right to remove Squamish people from their own land. I also support the other people who stand behind the elders who are protecting their territory. As Indigenous and Aboriginal Peoples we stand with our people and all people who protect the land.”

For more information contact:

Rosalin Sam, Spokesperson Sutikalh: +1-604-894-2400

June Quipp, Pilalt Nation: +1-604-794-5716 or +1-604-997-2365

Arthur Manuel, Secwepemc Nation: 1-250-319-0688