

**Petersburg Borough, Alaska
RESOLUTION #2019-13**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT TO ACT IMMEDIATELY TO PROTECT THE TRANSBOUNDARY
STIKINE WATERSHED AND ALL WHO DEPEND ON IT FROM THE POTENTIAL
IMPACTS OF CANADIAN MINING PROJECTS AND REQUESTING A NEW
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UNDER THE 2019 BRITISH COLUMBIA
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT BE CONDUCTED ON THE GALORE CREEK
MINE**

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough is located within the transboundary region of the Stikine Watershed and represent 3,198 residents; and

WHEREAS, we are deeply rooted in the fishing industry in Petersburg, with commercial fishing, processing, and marine support services comprising a large portion of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, waters of the Stikine River and the surrounding watershed support the life of integral foods, such as the five species of Pacific salmon, eulachan, trout, and plants and fungi that support subsistence for our residents; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough Assembly wishes to protect our community's pristine waters for generations yet to come; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough Assembly supports responsible mining in tandem with assurances of protection for our fisheries and clean waters; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 between the United States and Canada states that "waters flowing across the boundary shall not be polluted on either side to the injury of health or property on the other"; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Canada ratified the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the principles of free, prior, and informed consent for all Indigenous groups impacted by the actions of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, proposed and operating mines located in the Stikine Watershed currently include the Johnny Mountain Mine and SNIP Mine (currently in exploration), the proposed Schaft Creek Mine, the operational Red Chris Mine, and the proposed Galore Creek Mine; and

WHEREAS, the Galore Creek Mine is of urgent concern due to the potential for development under a 2007 Environmental Assessment Certificate issued by the British Columbia (BC) government under laws that do not offer the appropriate environmental protections and that are now outdated; and

WHEREAS, if not properly regulated and managed, these proposed and operating mines have the potential to directly harm our residents and our neighbors within the Stikine Watershed

as well as citizens of British Columbia by way of harm to the Stikine River's water quality, which would directly impact foods, clean drinking water and healthy fisheries; and

WHEREAS, our Alaskan Senators Murkowski and Sullivan recently stated their support for greater mining protections on transboundary rivers in British Columbia and called upon their leadership to take action to guarantee the protection of Alaska's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Alaskan and British Columbia Governments to work together to safeguard the Stikine Watershed from harm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Petersburg Borough Assembly, call upon the British Columbia Provincial Government, as the jurisdiction where mines in the transboundary Stikine Watershed are regulated, to act immediately to protect the Stikine Watershed and all who depend on it from the potential impacts of irresponsible mining.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the British Columbia Provincial Government and Agencies to conduct a new Environmental Assessment for the Galore Creek Mine that incorporates the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and Free Prior and Informed Consent in light of the 2019 British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act, which takes into account a wider range of effects in the final approval process than was conducted for the 2007 Environmental Assessment.

Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly on November 4, 2019.

Jeigh Stanton Gregor, Vice Mayor

Attest:

Danielle Aikins, Deputy Clerk