

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adams Lake Indian Band / Neskonlith Indian Band

January 29, 2010

Aboriginal Leaders Say: Olympic Training Site is our Indigenous Land.

Austria's Olympic Ski Team's Trains at the Site of Indigenous Land Rights Dispute.

Secwepemc Chiefs from the Adams Lake and Neskonlith Indian Bands are asserting their rights at Sun Peaks Resort, located in southern British Columbia. In Secwepemc culture, the area is called Skwel'kwet.

Austria's Olympic Alpine Ski Team trains at Sun Peaks, a resort with a troubled 20-year history of failing to respect Indigenous land rights.

"Austria is a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which protects our right to own, use, develop and control our traditional lands," said Chief Nelson Leon (Adams Lake). "Yet Austria's ski team practices on land where our rights aren't respected," he added.

"Canada, sadly, is the only country in the world to have twice voted against the U.N. Declaration," noted Chief Judy Wilson (Neskonlith). "When it comes to human rights, the Canadian government has yet to treat Indigenous Peoples as equals," she added.

Attempts to change Sun Peaks from a resort into a municipality have brought the issue to the forefront. The Chiefs don't want Sun Peaks to turn into another layer of government with disregard for Secwepemc aboriginal rights and title. "We will fight for our rights," said Chief Wilson.

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