

Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk - Fish Farms and the Olympics - a "FAST"

Canada plays Norway on February 16th, 2010 at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

I see this as an opportunity to use the International media machine that is here to draw attention to the main struggle we as Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk people face in our collective territories..... Fish Farms and protecting of our territories, environment and Seafood!

Fish Farms owned and operated by the Norwegian Companies : Marine Harvest and Cermaq (Mainstream).

The government of Norway voted "Yes" to Support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and Canada voted "NO" three times.

UNDRIP covers many areas that would be beneficial for Indigenous peoples if it was to become key in how Governments and Industry in the world interacted with us as First Nations, Indigenous, Aboriginal or Aborigines peoples.

For this discussion I would like to focus on 3 areas of the UNDRIP, these being;

1. Indigenous Peoples right to be involved with Land Use and Marine Use decisions within their Traditional Territory.
2. Indigenous People being able to decide upon Environmental Standards within their Traditional Territories.
3. Indigenous Peoples right to safeguard their Traditional Foods with their Traditional territories.

I delivered a letter to the Shareholder meetings of both Marine Harvest and Cermaq (Mainstream) last Spring on behalf of the Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk Tribal Council which gave expression to the 3 topics of the UNDRIP listed above.

I also provided copies of the UNDRIP with the letters and informed the Shareholders that by disregarding our letter and direction, they were acting in opposition to what the Norwegian Governments support at the United Nations.

The message I left was they as a company need to bring their operations to be in accordance with our directions, or to work at having the Norwegian Government to reverse its vote at the UN on the UNDRIP. They have done neither.

There are 29 fish farm Tenures in the territory of the Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk.

We are having a one hour "Fast" for each Fish Farm Tenure, beginning on Feb 15th, 2010 at 5:00 am and finishing at 10:00 am the day Norway plays Canada in Olympic Hockey.

A 29 hour Fast to draw attention to what is have stated above and the fact that Canada continues to Vote "NO" and are only 1 of Three countries to do so.

The "Fast" will be held at the Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) office in Vancouver and I have the following people confirmed as participants;

- Grand Chief Stewart Phillip
- Chief Charlie Williams
- Fred Speck
- April Taylor
- Shelley Joseph
- Rick Johnson
- Robert Williams
- Margaret Inoue
- and myself

there are a few more expressed an interest but I have yet to have them confirmed.

This is a peaceful, respectful, non-violent protest to draw attention to this important issue and use the media thats here for the Olympics to get our message out to a broad International audience. An audience very in-tune with Norway's participation at the winter Olympics.

We as the Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk will be sending a letter out to the King of Norway in the next day or so inviting him to

come and hear the concerns we have with Norwegian companies operating in our Territory.

How can you help?

I think it would be awesome if we were to have a similar Fast in other locations such as Alert, Kingcome Inlet, Gilford Island or any other community that feels as strongly about protecting Wild Salmon and the environment.

Thank you for taking time to read this Note and I look forward to hearing from any who may read this and see how we can develop a larger group to be counted in this Fast

In the Spirit of Growth and Unity

Bob Chamberlin, Chief, Kwicksutaineuk Ah-kwa-mish First Nation
Chairman, Musgamagw-Tsawataineuk Tribal Council
Secretary/Treasurer Union of BC Indian Chiefs



Delivering the letters and the UNDRIP at Marine Harvest AGM