



FORT MCKAY
FIRST NATION

MEDIA STATEMENT

Fort McKay First Nation disappointed by Teck's withdrawal of Frontier Project, calls for collaborative approach to responsible development

Monday, February 24, 2020

Fort McKay— Chief Mel Grandjamb of the Fort McKay First Nation released the following statement today.

“The Fort McKay First Nation is disappointed to learn of Teck Resources’ decision to withdraw the regulatory application for federal approval of its Frontier mine in northeast Alberta.

“Since we began working with Teck in 2008, the company has demonstrated a remarkable sensitivity to Indigenous concerns. Fort McKay executed a long-term sustainability agreement with Teck in 2016 that reflects our shared principles and objectives, including addressing economic opportunities, environmental concerns, and the protection of Treaty rights. Revenue from Teck-related enterprise would have helped to support our on-reserve Elder’s long-term care centre and the new K-9 school on which we hope to break ground in 2020. My colleague, Councillor Raymond Powder, also noted that the Frontier mine would have had a lasting effect on our employment, economic development and job training opportunities.

“Teck also went above and beyond the standard environmental protection requirements, making real contributions to the protection of woodland caribou, wood buffalo and their habitats, and relinquishing land that was incorporated into the new Kitaskino Nuwanene Wildland Provincial Park.

“Teck’s decision follows in the wake of a national debate about resource development, climate change, environmental protection and Indigenous interests. There are a lot of perspectives on this decision and its implications but let us not lose sight of this: **collaboration and consultation with First Nation communities on natural resource development projects is critical for our shared success and prosperity.**

“Responsible resource development can be a meaningful tool for reconciliation when it also recognizes Canada’s obligation to protect Treaty rights. That is why Fort McKay is committed to finding collaborative solutions to reconcile resource development, environmental sustainability, and Treaty rights.

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“That is also why we believe a collaborative approach between First Nations, industry and governments to secure regulatory certainty for projects is essential, so operators know what to expect and how best to develop their projects within given parameters. We have pursued a collaborative solution to protect Treaty rights at Moose Lake.

“We will continue to work in partnership with other First Nation communities, industry and the provincial and federal governments to champion responsible growth for Canada.”

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